

Mary Wolfe

S O L Y M A N

K

A N D

A L M E N A.

— Libet *Partho* torquere *Cydonia* cornu
Spicula ————— VIRG.



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S O L Y M A N



M A N

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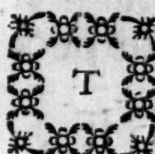
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TO THE
QUEEN.

MADAM,

 O the public Testimonies of Respect and Duty offered to your Majesty, on the happy Occasion of your Nuptials, may an Individual add his Wishes for the long Continuance of an Union so auspicious to your People?

Distin-

Distinguished by every amiable and elegant Accomplishment, your Majesty will not refuse your royal Favour to Solyman and Almena, since these Characters are drawn, however imperfectly, in the Cause of Truth and Virtue.

With all possible Respect
and Duty,

I am,

Madam,

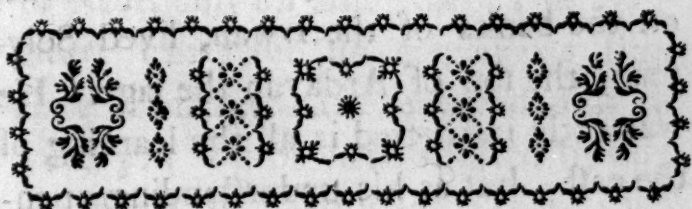
Your Majesty's

Most humble

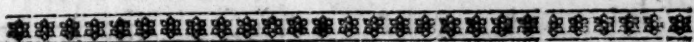
And

Most faithful Servant,

JOHN LANGHORNE.



SOLYMAN and ALMENA.



CHAP. I.


LET the sons and daughters of
 affliction receive comfort from
 hope. The motion of the sun-
 beams on the wave, is not
 more uncertain, than the condition of
 human life: misery, therefore, has much
 to hope, and happiness much to fear ;
 but virtue has always a resource in Pro-
 vidence, which not only improves the
 blessings, but mitigates the evils of life.

B

In

In a pleasant valley of Mesopotamia, on the banks of the Irwan, lived Solyman, the son of Ardavan the sage. He was early instructed in all the learning of the east ; but as his understanding opened, he grew weary of the labours of study, and thirsted only for the knowledge of mankind. With much importunity, he prevailed on his father to permit him to travel. “ My son,” said Ardavan, “ let not your curiosity interrupt your happiness : all that nature can give you, is in the valley of Irwan : here you are cherished by the eye of affection, and indulged with all the bounties of the Eternal Sun. Travel is often dangerous, and always inconvenient : your knowledge of men may be purchased by experiencing their treachery, their cruelty, and their pride ; the unsuspecting innocence of your heart, will expose you to the designs of the selfish, and the insolence of the vain ; you will wander from place
“ to

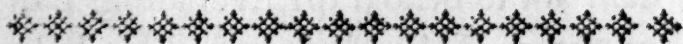
“ to place, only for amusement ; as your
 “ heart can have no connexions that
 “ time or interest have rendered dear to
 “ you, you will be little affected by any
 “ thing you see : and what is more than
 “ all, your virtue will be endangered ;
 “ when you behold the universal preva-
 “ lence of vice, when your eye is attract-
 “ ed by the flowery paths in which she
 “ seems to tread, you will find it difficult
 “ to withstand the force of example, and
 “ the blandishments of pleasure.” So-
 lyman humbled himself and replied :
 “ Prince of the sages that dwell between
 “ the rivers, let your ear be patient to the
 “ words of youth. Can Ardavan doubt the
 “ integrity of the heart, which his pre-
 “ cepts have formed to virtue ; or fear
 “ that Solyman should become the slave of
 “ vice ? I am not a stranger to the man-
 “ ners of men, though I have mixed but
 “ little among them ; nor am I unac-
 “ quainted with the temptations to which
 “ I shall be exposed, nor unprepared to

"withstand them. Travel may be at-
 "tended with some inconveniencies, but
 "it has many advantages : next to the
 "knowledge of ourselves, most valuable
 "is the knowledge of nature ; and this
 "is to be acquired, only by attending
 "her through the variety of her works :
 "the more we behold of these, the more
 "our ideas are enlarged and extended ;
 "and the nobler and more worthy con-
 "ceptions we must entertain of that pow-
 "er, who is the parent of universal
 "being."

"My son," said Ardavan, "if you
 "are determined to travel, let your ear
 "attend to the instruction of age. Move
 "not one pace from the valley of Irwan,
 "if your heart rely not on the Eternal
 "Providence : it is that confidence alone
 "which must support you under all the
 "possible contingencies of distress : O let
 "it not depart from you ; it is the sove-
 "reign antidote to the evils of life ! The
 "day

" day is not lighted up in vain, let it not
 " pass without the practice of virtue ;
 " dare not to behold the Everlasting Sun
 " go down, if thou hast wasted his light
 " in idleness or in vanity : ignorance, mi-
 " sery, or want, will always afford thee
 " the means of beneficence.

" May that Immortal Being, whose
 " eye is over all his creatures, save thee
 " from folly and from vice ! may his
 " hand direct thee in the hour of negli-
 " gence, and his spirit guide thee through
 " the maze of error ! when thy mind
 " shall be enriched with the knowledge
 " of his works, may he restore thee,
 " more virtuous, to the valley of Irwan,
 " to the arms of thy aged father ! and
 " may he forgive this tear, which pro-
 " ceeds not from a distrust of his provi-
 " dence, but falls for the loss of Soly-
 " man !"



C H A P. II.

THE morning was spread upon the mountains, and Solyman prepared to depart : but first prostrating himself towards the Sun, he thus addressed that glorious luminary. “ Incomparable, and “ everlasting ! thou, that lightest up a “ thousand worlds, and extendest thy “ protecting power to the minutest parts “ of nature ! let thy universal eye look “ with favour upon Solyman. When I “ wander over the wastes of desolation, “ may thy chearful rays comfort and support me ! when I go into the cities of “ men, mayest thou still look upon me ; “ teach me to discover the dark designs “ of malignity, and to unfold the intricacies

“cies of fraud !” so mayest thou rise with
 “seven-fold lustre over the waves of In-
 “dus ; so mayest thou be adored by
 “those savage nations, who experience
 “thy goodness without acknowledge-
 “ment !” After this short address, he
 sung the following hymn.

H Y M N

TO THE

RISING SUN.

From the red wave rising bright,
 Lift on high thy golden head ;
 O'er the misty mountain, spread,
 Thy smiling rays of orient light !

See the golden God appear !
 Flies the fiend of darkness drear ;
 Flies, and in her gloomy train,
 Sable grief, and care, and pain !

8 SOLYMAN AND ALMENA.

See the golden God advance !
On 'Taurus' heights his coursers prance :
With him haste the vernal hours,
Breathing sweets and dropping flowers.

Laughing summer at his side,
Waves her locks in rosy pride ;
And autumn bland, with aspect kind,
Bears his golden sheaf behind.

O haste, and spread the purple day
O'er all the wide ethereal way !
Nature mourns at thy delay :
God of glory, haste away !
From the red wave rising bright,
Lift on high thy golden head ;
O'er the misty mountain, spread
Thy smiling rays of orient light !

When Solyman had finished his devotions, he passed over the Tigris into the kingdom of Persia.

There is some sacred attraction in the place where we have passed the chearful
innocence

innocence of childhood, that holds our heart to it during the remaining part of life. No sooner had Solyman ascended an eminence that gave him a retrospective view of the valley of Irwan, than he turned his eye on his native fields, and gazed for some time with a kind of pensive complacency. "Happy scenes," said he, "where I have beheld the everlasting Sun so often rise and set! yonder is the grove, where I reposed at noon; and that is the hill where I mused at eve. In yon mansion, I first drew the breath of heaven; and there, perhaps, Ardavan may yet be weeping for my departure."

The gentle heart of Solyman thus indulged itself a while, till the declining day called upon him to proceed.



CHAP. III.

WHEN he had reached the foot of Taurus, the shadows of evening fell from the mountains ; he, therefore sought to repose himself in the village of Abdat : but as he was advancing towards it, he was stopped by an exclamation of sorrow, that proceeded from an adjacent wood. As he was in hopes of relieving some distress, he scrupled not to draw near enough to listen and soon discovered that the persons he heard speaking, were two lovers, who had stolen a secret interview before their final separation.

The

The heart of Solyman had never felt the passion of love ; and he was therefore the more curious to see the effects of it. But how great was his astonishment, when, as he approached the place from whence the voices came, he beheld the lover lying, in all the agonies of sorrow, at the feet of his weeping mistress ! “ Im- mortal power,” said he, “ I have been told, that love was the best of thy gifts : is this miserable, this painful sight a proof of it ? Behold that wretched youth, how his heart labours and struggles under its oppression ; while the amiable maiden, who seems to be the cause of his misery, hangs over him in tears and silence, as if incapable of relieving him. Heavens, what agonies ! reason will be driven from her seat. Ha ! nature gives place ; he faints !”

Solyman perceiving his assistance was now become necessary, rushed into the thicket, and raised the unhappy lover from

from the earth. At length his senses returned ; but his grief, which had before been so exquisitely violent, was changed into gloomy stupidity. Solyman, however, by the soothing sounds of pity, awoke his attention, and by a gentle importunity drew from him the cause of his distress.

“ Stranger,” said the youth, “ who-
 “ ever thou art, thine appearance entitles
 “ thee to regard, and the compassion thou
 “ hast shewn me merits my confidence.
 “ Thou now beholdest the most unhappy
 “ of men. That lady, at whose feet I so
 “ lately lay insensible, is the daughter of
 “ a mercenary wretch, who has sold her
 “ to the Khan of Buckharia ; and to-mor-
 “ row she is to be conveyed to him, with-
 “ out expostulation or reprieve.”

“ What,” replied Solyman, “ is it
 “ possible, that any thing can induce a
 “ parent to make his child miserable ! I
 “ was not ignorant of the depravity of
 “ man ;

" man ; but I thought the affections of
 " nature could not have been overcome.
 " Yet if it is so, can there be any oblig-
 " ation on the child, to take the portion
 " of misery that her parent holds out to
 " her ? The obligation of children to
 " parents, can only be founded in grati-
 " tude ; and where no favour is shewn,
 " no gratitude can be due. It is Im-
 " possible that, in any circumstances,
 " you should be more miserable ; but it
 " is very possible, that you may be hap-
 " pier. Fly, while the moments of li-
 " berty remain : and let not those hearts
 " which Heaven has formed for each o-
 " ther, be separated by man. The roof
 " of ARDAVAN has always been a re-
 " fuge to innocence in distress : I will
 " myself conduct you to the valley of Ir-
 " wan, where my father's venerable
 " character, and the retired situation of
 " his abode, will secure you from de-
 " tection ; and I shall rejoice to be
 " the

“the means of delivering you from
“misery.”

This offer was too interesting to be refused. The lovers put themselves under the conduct of SOLYMAN; and he now repast the roads he had travelled by the light of the Sun, with superior pleasure even in the gloom of night; so delightful is beneficence to a virtuous mind!

When the morning began to appear, they had reached the banks of the Tigris. “It will not be necessary,” said SOLYMAN, that I should attend you further: yonder is the valley of Irwan, and the house of Ardavan. “To know that you are unhappy, will be a sufficient motive for him to receive you; and your story will procure you his protection. I will now take leave of you, because I would not again take leave of my father. Tell him, that I recommend you to his care; he will rejoice to hear, that Solyman has
“been

“been the means of your happiness :
 “but tell him not, that I returned to
 “the banks of the Tigris.” Having
 thus parted with the lovers, he proceeded
 on his journey, and in five days arrived at Ispahan.

The beauty and magnificence of that extensive city, engaged his attention for many days : he was now astonished at the stupendous effects of industry, and now delighted by the elegance of art. But by these, he thought himself rather amused, than instructed ; and he perceived, that day after day departed from him, without being distinguished either by the acquisition of knowledge, or the practice of virtue ; he, therefore, frequented the places of public resort, and endeavoured to form such connexions as were most likely to promote both.



C H A P. IV.

AMONG those whose conversation he found most instructive and entertaining, he was particularly fond of an English merchant, who had resided some time at Ispahan, and spoke the language of the country: the merchant also perceiving in SOLYMAN a superior understanding, and a benevolent heart, was delighted with his company, and cultivated his friendship. They frequently met; and their conversation generally turning on the manners and pursuits of men, they mutually gratified each other by accounts of their different countries.

“ You,

"You," said Solyman, "have enjoyed the advantages which I am still to procure. You have seen many different parts of the world, and can form a collective idea of its inhabitants: your commercial engagements must have led you much into the interests and designs of men; and you must, consequently, be well acquainted with the prevailing propensities of the heart. But I should be particularly obliged to you for an account of your own country, of which I have yet had but an imperfect description."

"The difference of men," said the merchant, "lies only in their complexion and manners: their principles are the same, in all ages, and in all climates; and self-interest is the prevailing principle, from Indus to the Thames. I am not, however, such a school philosopher, as to think that the whole human species should come under

"der

“ der this conclusion: I have experien-
 “ ced the delights of friendship and the
 “ consolations of benevolence, where in-
 “ terest was no motive; I have even
 “ known many, who have contributed
 “ to remove the miseries of their fellow
 “ creatures, though by the diminution
 “ of their own fortune. That excellent
 “ that truly useful spirit of munificence,
 “ in a particular manner characterizes my
 “ countrymen. Were you, my friend,
 “ in the metropolis of Great Britain, you
 “ would behold spacious edifices erected
 “ for helpless indigence; and find the
 “ same skill and care employed for the
 “ health and the lives of the poor, that
 “ the most affluent circumstances can
 “ procure for the rich.

“ But munificence is not the only or-
 “ nament that distinguishes my country;
 “ there too dwell liberty and justice;
 “ liberty, that, however strange it may
 “ seem to you, delights in the protection
 “ of a monarch; and justice, which he
 “ causes

“ causes to be administered without partiality. The greatest Bassa in Great Britain cannot invade either the life or the property of the meanest subject with impunity; he is equally obnoxious to the laws, and would suffer indiscriminately with the most obscure malefactor.

“ This general security of property and life, excites an unwearied spirit of industry, and disperses the sons of commerce over the remotest regions of the earth. Hence, my friend, we visit the towers of Ispahan, and the gulphs of Bassora; our sails are stretched from the most distant islands of the Atlantic, to the shores of Japan; and London is supplied with all the luxuries of nature, and all the labours of art.”

“ You give me,” said Solyman, “ a very magnificent, and a very pleasing idea of your country. But will not commerce, as it enriches the people,
“ corrupt

“ corrupt their manners? Will unbound-
“ ed affluence produce neither riot nor
“ debauchery, vanity, or pride? The
“ inhabitants of Great Britain may be
“ more splendid and luxurious; but the
“ dwellers in Mesopotamia are, perhaps,
“ happier, in proportion as they are more
“ innocent: for Ardavan, my father,
“ has frequently told me, that wealth
“ corrupts the heart of man.”

“ All the good things of life,” an-
“ swered the merchant, “ are complica-
“ ted with evils. If wealth be not de-
“ sirable, because it may lead us into
“ luxury, or inflame us with pride; no
“ more would the sanguine cheerfulness
“ of health, lest it should betray us
“ into licentiousness. There are, it is to
“ be feared, many, whose manners are
“ depraved by riches; but there are,
“ likewise, many, who employ them in
“ the diffusion of knowledge, or the re-
“ lief of indigence.

“ These,

“ These,” said Solyman, “ are glorious ends; and would almost excite me to turn merchant, for the acquisition of wealth. But give me some account of the literature of your country.”

“ Of that,” replied the Merchant, “ I am scarce a competent judge, the greatest part of my time having been employed in commercial studies. I am not, however, wholly unacquainted with it; for I have always thought, that a merchant should not neglect the accomplishments of a gentleman. The present state of literature in Great Britain, will be best seen, by considering the performances of the learned in their respective classes. We have but few historians of real merit; either their style is slovenly and unharmonious, or their matter undigested and confused; they are either the tools of a faction, or the slaves of a bookseller. But I have had the pleasure of hearing, since
“ I came

"I came to Ispahan, that the histories
 "of England and Scotland, the two di-
 "visions of Great Britain, have lately
 "been written with considerable spirit,
 "accuracy and elegance. As to the
 "histories of other countries, which have
 "been published in Great Britain, they
 "are such meer compilations, that they
 "deserve not to be called the labours
 "of art."

"From this account of your histori-
 "ans," said Solyman, "I cannot enter-
 "tain any great idea of them; but
 "what are your orators?" "As to rhe-
 "torical writings," answered the Mer-
 "chant, "we have many that are truly
 "excellent; spirited and elevated in sen-
 "timent, in language harmonious and
 "correct: but the powers of composi-
 "tion are rendered inefficacious by a
 "spiritless pronunciation. The art of
 "public speaking, however important in
 "itself, seems entirely to be neglected;
 and

“ and the orator pronounces his discourse
 “ from the rostrum, with as little feeling
 “ himself, and as little influence upon
 “ his audience, as if he were reading the
 “ news-paper of the day.” “ Then I
 “ suppose,” said Solyman, “ that your
 “ orators speak on unaffecting, or unin-
 “ teresting subjects.” “ That is not the
 “ case,” replied the Merchant ; “ the
 “ subjects they treat are of the last impor-
 “ tance, the duties we owe to the supreme
 “ Being, the dispensations of his provi-
 “ dence, the eternal obligations of morali-
 “ ty, the charms of virtue, and the delight-
 “ ful exercises of justice, mercy, and cha-
 “ rity.” “ Holy Mithra !” interrupted
 Solyman, “ can the speakers be unaf-
 “ fected, while they are treating these
 “ subjects ? Do they then think them of
 “ that importance they really are ; or do
 “ your teachers disbelieve and disregard
 “ their own doctrines ; or are they uncon-
 “ cerned what effect they may have upon
 “ the people ?” “ It would be unchari-
 “ table,

“able,” said the Merchant, “to admit
“generally any of these suppositions.
“Their unanimated and unawakening
“manner of speaking may proceed from
“innocent causes, which those you men-
“tion are not.”

“I take it for granted,” said Solyman,
“that as you have orators, at least in
“point of composition, you have also
“poets; for rhetoric and poetry are nearly
“allied. Besides, I have been informed,
“that every country has its poets; and
“that even on the frozen mountains of
“the north, the hardy inhabitants open
“their mouths to sing.” “The love of
“harmony,” replied the Merchant, “is
“in man a natural passion. There is
“something metrical and numerous in
“his motions, his actions, and his words;
“and he has always endeavoured to re-
“duce the last to a kind of poetical
“measure, even where the art of writ-
“ing was unknown or unpractised. The
“art

“art of poetry in Great-Britain has, of
 “late years, been brought to great per-
 “fection: the language of the country
 “is both nervous and harmonious, and
 “calculated to express the tender and
 “the sublime, in both which species of
 “writing we have poets that have never
 “been excelled. Though the English
 “are, in general, of a less sprightly turn,
 “than their neighbours the French; yet,
 “in the active powers of imagination, in
 “the flights of fancy, and the strains of
 “humour, their writings are by no means
 “inferior. Hence, the English poetry is
 “not only harmonious, but sentimental
 “and picturesque, abounding with strong
 “images and lively description. In short,
 “my countrymen have attempted every
 “different species of poetry, and have
 “excelled in each.”

“The account you give me of your
 “poetry,” said Solyman, “makes me
 “very desirous to learn your language.

C

“There

"There is no species of writing that
 "gives me equal pleasure : I caught
 "the enthusiasm from nature, from the
 "harmony and symmetry of her works.
 "If you, who have so long been accus-
 "tomed to the elegance of the English,
 "can bear a specimen of the Mesopota-
 "mian poetry, I will repeat to you a
 "performance of my own."

A FAREWELL.

H Y M N

T O T H E

V A L L E Y O F I R W A N.

Farewell the fields of Irwan's vale,
 My infant years where fancy led ;
 And sooth'd me with the western gale,
 Her wild dreams waving round my head ;
 While the blythe blackbird told his tale.
 Farewell, the fields of Irwan's vale !

The

The primrose on the valley's side,
The green thyme on the mountain's
head,

The wanton rose, the daisy pied,
The wilding's blossom blushing red,
No longer I their sweets inhale.
Farewell the fields of Irwan's vale!

How oft, within yon vacant shade,
Has ev'ning clos'd my careless eye!
How oft, along those banks, I've stray'd!
And watch'd the wave that wander'd by!
Full long their loss shall I bewail.
Farewell, the fields of Irwan's vale!

Yet still, within yon vacant grove,
To mark the close of parting day;
Along yon flow'ry banks to rove,
And watch the wave that winds away;
Fair fancy sure shall never fail,
Though far from these, and Irwan's vale!



C H A P. V.

IN this social intercourse the Merchant
 past many days with Solyman, and
 while he gratified his curiosity engaged
 his affections. Being suddenly called by
 business to the court of Bassora, he came
 one morning to take a final leave: but
 the traveller was too much attached to
 his friend, to suffer any thing but neces-
 sity to part them. "Permit me," said
 he, "to attend you on your present expe-
 "dition. I have not appointed to myself
 "any particular rout, but travel as occa-
 "sion or inclination leads me; and I am
 "sensible I shall gain more from your
 "experience and observation, than I can
 "from

“from my own.” This offer was too agreeable to the Merchant, not to be eagerly embraced; and after the necessary preparations they set out from Isphahan, and met the morning on the mountains of Arvan.

The sun appeared above the horizon, and Solyman prostrated himself in the profoundest adoration. When he arose from his devotions, he advanced towards his fellow traveller, with a look of kindness mixed with pity and concern. The Merchant understood him: but as he was unwilling to controvert the principles of his religion, he made no apology for his conduct, during the devotions of Solyman.

The mild morning light which was diffused over the vallies and streams, the various beauty of the meadows, the regular disposition of blossomed hedges, the soothing murmur of bees at
 C 3 their

their early labour, and the full concert of the feathered creation, drew their conversation on the universal beneficence of nature. "I feel," said Solyman, "a delight, which I can neither account for nor describe. These mountains gilded with the rays of the orient Sun, those painted vallies that shroud the rich carpets of Persia, yon distant waters which gleam with the shifting effulgence of light, the general busy voice of joy and activity in the animal creation, conspire to fill my heart with inexpressible pleasure."

"That pleasure," replied the Merchant, "I believe proceeds from a sympathy: it is scarce possible, unless you have some peculiar cause of misery, not to be pleased when you see every thing around you happy. On the contrary, if you go into the mansions of sorrow, it will be impossible to withstand the infection of it. The God of nature

“nature seems to have given us these
 “sympathetic feelings, to link our affec-
 “tions in the great chain of society:
 “hence, social virtue is not left to de-
 “pend solely on the moral will, but
 “is founded on the principles of our
 “nature.

“But the object of your adoration is
 “so profuse of his favours, that I should
 “now be glad to find some convenient
 “shade. I think, I discover a cave on
 “the southern declivity of the mountain;
 “let us retire to it, during the heat of
 “the day.”

As they were advancing towards the
 cave, they perceived a beaten path lead-
 ing directly from it to a distant rivulet:
 this made them apprehensive that it
 might be the habitation of some wild
 beast, that had worn the path by con-
 stantly going to drink at the stream: but
 their fears were soon removed upon the
 appearance

appearance of an aged hermit, advancing slowly towards the rivulet with an earthen pitcher. At sight of the travellers he hasted to his abode with all the feeble precipitancy of age : they agreed not to disturb him, and only took the advantage of the rock which projected over his cell to shelter themselves from the sun : but they had not long continued in this situation, before the hermit, perceiving them to be inoffensive travellers, invited them into his cave.

“ You will excuse,” said the hoary sage, “ the caution of years : these mountains are not secure from the ravage of human ferocity ; and these gray hairs would be no defence from the wanton cruelty of man. I have suffered so much from my own species, that I have at last forsaken their society : I thought it better to give up the conveniences of it, than to bear the evils : and I have long lived in this solitary
“ cave,

“cave, on nothing more than what uncultivated nature would afford me.”
 “Those sufferings,” said Solyman, “must indeed, have been extraordinary, that could make you give up one of the greatest advantages of life, the social intercourse of your fellow creatures.”
 “The narratives of age,” replied the hermit, “are seldom agreeable to youth : but as instruction can be gained only from experience, you will do wisely to learn it from the misfortunes of Abbas.”

“I was born to a competent fortune in the province of Lurestan : but being early left an orphan, my affairs came under the cognizance of a justiciary court, which the members of it call the court of equity ; but so equitable were they with regard to me, that they claimed two parts of my little fortune for their care of the third.” “Would to God, that were never the case in

“Great-Britain,” interrupted the Merchant ! “But proceed.” “Though I
“had such an early and convincing proof
“of the treachery and rapacity of man-
“kind ; yet, as I had always exercised
“the benevolent virtues myself, I could
“not think others totally devoid of them :
“and at my three and twentieth year be-
“ing inclined to travel, I without scruple
“entrusted the remains of my fortune
“with a person, whom I had long known
“and respected ; a person, Holy Allah !
“who lifted his hands to thee : but I had
“not been absent from Lurestan more
“than three moons, when he pretended
“a commission to dispose of my effects,
“and immediately left the place. Upon
“my return therefore to the province, I
“found neither friend nor fortune ; and
“being bred to no business, I was redu-
“ced to the most distressful state of indi-
“gence. I applied, however, not without
“hopes of redress or relief , to a person
“of power and eminence, whom I had
“often

“ often heard speak of his friendship with
 “ my father. After long and frequent
 “ attendance I was admitted to an inter-
 “ view : I laid open my distress to him
 “ with that kind of eloquence which the
 “ miseries we suffer from the treachery of
 “ others always suggests ; and which
 “ however unaffecting it may be to indif-
 “ ferent persons, utters its complaints with
 “ dignity and resentment. I was heard
 “ half way through my story, and dismis-
 “ sed with the following reply : it is not
 “ necessary, young man, to proceed with
 “ your complaints ; I perceive you have
 “ been abused, and I am sorry for you.
 “ But that shall not be the only proof of
 “ my regard for you ; I will give you a
 “ little advice : you should never depend
 “ so much on the benevolence or integrity
 “ of any human being, as to trust him
 “ with your fortune or your life. Thus
 “ ended my hopes from the friend of my
 “ father ; whose benevolence extended
 “ no

“ no further, than to instruct me how to
 “ secure the fortune that was stolen, and
 “ to preserve the life which I wished to
 “ lose.

“ I had now no choice, but to enter as
 “ a common soldier, into the army of the
 “ Sophi. I had always delighted in martial
 “ exercises, and was expert in the
 “ use of arms : my dexterity and address
 “ drew upon me the attention of my officers ;
 “ and in a short time, I obtained a
 “ small commission. I had now almost
 “ forgot my miseries, and embraced my
 “ new situation with chearfulness and
 “ hope : but fortune, who had for a
 “ while ceased to persecute me as below
 “ her notice, as if she had been indignant
 “ at my satisfaction and jealous of my
 “ prospects, now renewed and redoubled
 “ her severity. My commanding officer
 “ had a daughter of extraordinary beauty,
 “ and an uncommon capacity. Zara
 “ was the object of universal admiration :
 “ but

“ but she had set her heart on the unfor-
 “ tunate Abbas. The first moment I
 “ beheld her, I discovered in her looks
 “ the most tender and affectionate regard
 “ for me, which I imputed to her com-
 “ passion for my misfortunes ; though at
 “ the same time I wished, without know-
 “ ing why, that it might proceed from
 “ another cause. She asked me for the
 “ story of my life : I told it in the plain-
 “ est and most pathetic manner ; yet,
 “ when I had finished, she desired me to
 “ repeat it. From this moment I had
 “ done with peace : her infectious ten-
 “ derness had such an influence upon my
 “ heart, that I could think of nothing
 “ but Zara : without Zara I was misera-
 “ ble. A thousand times did I flatter my-
 “ self, that there was something more
 “ than meer compassion in her look and
 “ manner ; and not many days had passed,
 “ before I was convinced of the dear fatal
 “ truth from this letter :

To

TO ABBAS.

“ Your merit and your sufferings have
“ a claim to something more than com-
“ passion : to espouse the cause of Abbas,
“ is to discharge a duty which virtue can-
“ not dispense with. Meet me on the pa-
“ rade this evening, and you shall know
“ more of the sentiments of Zara.”

“ The emotions I felt on the receipt of
“ this letter, can only be conceived by
“ those, who, in the midst of despairing
“ love, have beheld a gleam of hope.
“ The tumult of my heart hurried me
“ to the place appointed, long before the
“ time : I walked backward and forward
“ in the utmost confusion, totally regard-
“ less of every object about me ; some-
“ times raising my hands and eyes in the
“ sudden effusions of transport; and some-
“ times smiling with the complacency of
“ delight.

“ At length the day departed, and
“ Zara came. My heart bounded at
“ her

" her sight : I was unable to speak, and
 " threw myself at her feet. She was a-
 " larmed at my excessive earnestness and
 " confusion ; but commanding me to rise,
 " Abbas, said she, if your confusion pro-
 " ceeds from your modest gratitude, res-
 " train it, till you find whether I am able
 " to serve you ; if it arise from any other
 " cause, I must leave you this moment.
 " I intreated she would tell me, to what
 " I was indebted for the happiness of this
 " interview, and I would be calm and at-
 " tentive. My regard for your merit,
 " and my compassion for your sufferings,
 " said she, make me wish to serve you.
 " Tell me, Abbas, can I assist you
 " through the interest of my father ? I
 " faltered out my acknowledgements ;
 " telling her, that to her I must owe all
 " my hopes of future happiness.

" She left me immediately without re-
 " ply. The singularity of my behaviour
 " on the parade before the coming of Za-
 " ra,

"ra, had drawn upon me the attention of
 "an officer who was secretly her admirer,
 "and who, either through curiosity or
 "suspicion, though unobserved by me,
 "had waited at a convenient distance to
 "watch my motions. No sooner did he
 "perceive the approach of Zara, than as
 "well to gratify his revenge, as to ingra-
 "tiate himself with her father, he imme-
 "diately told him of our interview."

CHAP.



CHAP. VI.

“ **Z**ARA, ignorant of what had passed
 “ with her usual freedom and good-
 “ nature, began to express her compassi-
 “ on for the misfortunes of Abbas, talked
 “ of his merits, and wished to see him
 “ preferred. The old general, who was
 “ naturally jealous and impetuous, ex-
 “ claimed, with a burst of indignation,
 “ yes, I shall prefer him! Early the next
 “ morning he sent me my discharge; and
 “ while I was gazing in stupid astonish-
 “ ment upon my general’s letter, a youth,
 “ masked, brought me a small casket,
 “ with a letter from Zara, which, to the
 “ best

"best of my remembrance, was as follows :

To Abbas:

"By some unlucky circumstance,
 "which I do not now understand, instead of promoting you, I have been
 "the cause of your dismissal. The
 "bearer, who brings you a small casket
 "of jewels for your support, has my
 "commands to conduct you the shortest
 "way over the mountains : follow him
 "immediately, lest the rage of jealousy
 "meditate new persecutions. He wears
 "a mask that he may not be taken notice of as one of the general's domestics : his attachment to me, will make
 "him faithful to you. Time may bring
 "about happier events.

Adieu, adieu !

"Zara."

"In

"In the anguish and confusion of my
 "heart, I followed my guide, without
 "knowing whither he was leading me,
 "or what I was about to do. I vented
 "my grief in broken ejaculations, fre-
 "quently calling upon the name of Zara,
 "but not once addressing myself to my
 "attendant. By the evening of the se-
 "cond day, we had advanced forty miles
 "southward from the province of Luref-
 "tan ; when — how shall I relate the
 "last horrid scene of my miseries ! —
 "pardon me ! — these aged eyes have
 "yet a tear left, yet a tear for the me-
 "mory of Zara ! — we were attacked
 "by a band of robbers. My guide was
 "Zara ! In her fright, she threw off her
 "mask, and cried, Zara. Love, rage,
 "fear, and vengeance, gave me super-
 "natural strength : three of the villains
 "fell by my sabre ; a fourth disarmed
 "me ; and the rest of the gang carried
 "off Zara."

At

44 SOLYMAN AND ALMENA.

At this crisis of his story, the spirits of the aged Hermit were exhausted by their own violence ; and it was some time before he could proceed.

“ You have now, continued he, heard
“ the completion of my misfortunes.
“ When I was recovered of the wounds
“ I had received, I spent some months
“ in a fruitless search of Zara : at last,
“ despairing to gain any intelligence of
“ her, I transmitted an account of the af-
“ fair to her father ; not without hope,
“ that his power, or his wealth, might
“ be a means of finding her out, and re-
“ deeming her : but I was deceived ; and
“ had soon the mortification to hear, that
“ the unnatural wretch exulted in our
“ misfortunes, and uttered the most
“ dreadful imprecations on his only child.

“ Deprived of hope, and dejected with
“ melancholy, I could no longer bear the
“ society of mankind : I, therefore be-
“ took

" took myself to these solitary mountains,
 " where this cell has been my habitation
 " for years, that have passed away in un-
 " varied sorrow ; and where you are the
 " first of human beings that have heard
 " me tell my tale."

CHAP.



C H A P. VII.

SOLYMAN expatiated on the sufferings of Abbas with the most tender sensibility, and inveighed against the baseness of mankind with all the rage of honest resentment. “ Surely,” said he to the merchant, “ man is the vilest of all creatures ! In proportion as he excels them in reason, he exceeds them in the ability to do mischief ; and being equally cruel, the mischief he does, renders him more detestable. Sacred Mithra ! why dost thou lend thy light to the villain and the tyrant ? were it not for the enjoyment of your company,

“ny, my friend, I should have few inducements to go farther from the valley of Irwan ; for possibly to see more of human life, is only to know more of its crimes and miseries.”

“From the complicated distresses of one person,” replied the merchant, “you draw a partial image of the life of man. But the day declines : let us hasten over these mountains, that we may repose at night in some village of the valley.” The travellers took leave of the Hermit ; and about the close of day arrived at the village of Arden.

At their entrance, they were met by a person of a plain dress, and a chearful countenance, who, without ceremony, invited them, as travellers, to partake of his house and table that night. They accepted his invitation ; and the Merchant, addressing himself to Solyman said, “From the family of this man you shall

“not

“ not only be convinced, that there is
 “ both happiness and virtue in human
 “ life; but you shall see also how much the
 “ former depends upon the latter. I have
 “ been entertained by him, in travelling
 “ this way before: he is never more hap-
 “ py than when he has an opportunity of
 “ gratifying his benevolence. His inhe-
 “ ritage being much lessened by the loss-
 “ es of his father, who was a Merchant,
 “ he has but little wealth, except what
 “ arises from the industrious cultivation
 “ of a farm, which he purchased ten
 “ years ago with the chief part of his for-
 “ tune; yet he is as liberal to the poor
 “ and the stranger, as if he had large
 “ possessions: his known hospitality and
 “ generosity, make his house the resort
 “ of the traveller and the indigent; and,
 “ after he has finished the labours of the
 “ day, he is always ready to entertain
 “ the one, and relieve the other; hence
 “ that serene and easy cheerfulness, which
 “ you

“ you see in his countenance. In his fa-
“ mily you behold the influence of a good
“ example : his wife, whom he loves,
“ and by whom he is beloved with the
“ most cordial sincerity, goes hand in
“ hand with him, not only through their
“ their mutual cares, but also in the exer-
“ cises of benevolence. It is the principle
“ of her œconomy, that domestic frugali-
“ ty is the support of liberality ; and she
“ dispenses her own and her husband’s
“ bounties, with that propriety and easy
“ chearfulness, which double their value
“ to the receiver. The children inherit
“ the benevolence of their parents, and
“ learn the exercise of it from their ex-
“ ample. Bye and bye they will crowd
“ about your sofa, solicitous to serve
“ you : you shall see them preventing
“ your wants, and watching your re-
“ quests, with a busy emulation which
“ shall do you the most services.”

D

Solyman

Solyman listened, with delight, to this description of the villager's family ; and hasted, with the most ardent curiosity, to behold that virtue he so much admired. When he found that every thing exceeded the Merchant's account, and his own expectation, " It is enough," said he, " I am again reconciled to my own species. Notwithstanding the impression I received from the story of the unfortunate Abbas, virtue has yet her temples among men ; but, surely, she is a villager, and her votaries are the inhabitants of the fields !" Full of these thoughts, and delighted with the family of his host, he retired to his chamber, and, before he slept, composed the following ode.

THE

THE

HAPPY VILLAGER.

VIRTUE dwells in Arden's vale?
There her hallow'd temples rise;
There her incense greets the skies,
Grateful as the morning gale!

There, with humble peace, and her,
Lives the happy Villager;
There the golden smiles of morn
Brighter every field adorn;
There the sun's declining ray
Fairer paints the parting day:
There the wood-lark louder sings,
Zephyr moves on softer wings,
Groves in greener honours rise,
Purer azure spreads the skies;
There the fountains clearer flow,
Flowers in brighter beauty blow;

For, with peace and virtue, there
Lives the happy Villager !

Distant still from Arden's vale
Are the woes the bad bewail ;
Distant fell remorse, and pain,
And phrenzy smiling o'er her chain !
Grief's quick pang, despair's dead
groan,

Are in Arden's vale unknown :
For, with peace and virtue, there
Lives the happy Villager !

In his hospitable cell,
Love, and truth, and freedom dwell ;
And, with aspect mild and free,
The graceful nymph, simplicity.
Hail, ye liberal graces, hail !
Natives all of Arden's vale :
For, with peace and virtue, there
Lives the happy villager !

CHAP.



C H A P. VIII.

WHEN the dawn of the morning broke, Solyman and the Merchant, with the most grateful acknowledgments of the hospitality with which they had been entertained, left the village of Arden, followed by the kind wishes of their host, and his amiable family. They travelled for some days through the southern provinces of Persia, without any remarkable occurrence, or any other entertainment, than such as could be found in the diversity of prospects, and the different labours of men. Sometimes they amused themselves with the contem-

D 3.

plation

plation of those places, which history had marked out, as the scenes of great events ; and sometimes had occasion to reflect on the perishable monuments of human magnificence.

The noble plain, on which stood the once glorious Persopolis, afforded them inexhaustible matter of curiosity and meditation : this plain, extending about nineteen leagues, abounds every where with villages, and is watered by the great river Araxes. Nature has been so industrious in the defence of it, that she has raised before it mountains, that bear all the appearance; and might answer the end of artificial fortifications. From hence the travellers were amused with the ruinous remains of many noble edifices, that had once adorned the range of mountains : but when they were come to that part of them, which covered the ancient palace of Persopolis, the stupendous ruin struck them with silent astonishment.

nishment. Porticoes, which had withstood the assaults of time more than two thousand years ; broken columns of different lengths, rising at considerable distances within the limits of the same pile ; sculptured portals, through whose frowning arches the winds passed with a hollow murmuring ; numberless figures engraven on the pilasters of those portals ; and multitudes of hieroglyphics on the different parts of the spacious ruin ; gave the travellers a mournful and magnificent idea of the pristine grandeur of this edifice.

The Merchant observing Solyman to be totally absorbed in thought, would not interrupt the melancholy pleasure of his contemplations ; but waited, in silence, 'till, with an air of unaffected concern, he thus expressed his sentiments on Persepolis.

“ I am at a loss, my friend, in the
 “ midst of these magnificent ruins, whe-

D 4 :

“ ther

“ther I should think more highly, or
“more meanly of mankind. Pride raised
“this lofty edifice, and pride destroyed
“it. The vanity of a Cyrus, a Darius,
“or a Xerxes, adorned those superb co-
“lumns; and the vanity of an Alexan-
“der defaced them. These domes were
“not reared solely for regal magnificence
“and security; but to aid the appetites
“of power and luxury, and to secrete the
“royal pleasures from those that toiled to
“gratify them. Thus as this noble
“structure was possibly raised, not only
“for vanity but for riot; so, probably,
“by vanity inflamed by riot, it fell:
“probably, at the request of a smiling
“harlot, the towers of Persepolis blazed
“for her diversion; probably, because
“the conqueror had taken too large a
“draught of wine, this palace, the glory
“of Eastern art, sunk to the ground: a
“striking instance of the vanity of human
“labours, and the depravity of human
“nature! on the other hand, while I
“consider

“consider the work of the artist ; while
 “I am delighted with the symmetry and
 “proportion, which is yet to be traced
 “through these maimed ruins, and
 “struck with the bold relief of the ancient Persian architecture ; I forget the
 “motives, both of the erection and demolition of Persepolis ; and admire the
 “industry and ingenuity of man, that
 “gave such grace and beauty to these
 “massy structures.”

“Your sentiments,” said the merchant, “are much the same of my own ;
 “but give me leave now to conduct you
 “to a mountain, about two leagues distant from these ruins, and situated between two of the most beautiful plains
 “in the world. This mountain consists
 “of one intire rock, capable of the most
 “exquisite polish : it is reduced to form
 “by art, and its sides are perpendicular ;
 “so that, at a distance, it has the appearance of a wall. Upon this rock are

“several pieces of bas relief, exquisitely
 “performed ; in one of which is repre-
 “sented, a combat between the king of
 “Persia and the king of the Indies ; the
 “latter of whom, according to the tradi-
 “tion of the times, was subdued. There
 “are, besides, many other figures, of
 “which, though you may not discover
 “the design, you will be pleased with
 “the execution.”

Solyman proceeded with his friend to
 the mountain, much delighted, as well
 with the extraordinary appearance of the
 rock, as the uncommon beauty of the plains
 that were spread on either hand beneath,
 interspersed with villas shaded by trees,
 extensive meadows, and pastures filled
 with flocks. When they had gratified
 their curiosity, and indulged their specu-
 lations, they proceeded on their journey,
 and in a short time arrived at the gulph
 of Bassora.

The

The merchant, having here found the vessel he expected, told Solyman, that if his inclination led him to Europe, he could accommodate him with a convenient passage; informing him at the same time, that his own affairs would detain him some years longer in Persia. Solyman, whose heart was firmly attached to the merchant, long hesitated between friendship and curiosity: however, as he must have parted with him, had he continued his travels in Asia, and was not totally without hopes of seeing him in what he called the new world, he determined to accept his offer.

CHAP,



CHAP. IX.

AS the ship was to remain some time in the gulph, Solyman took the opportunity to make the tour of India. In his way he visited the isle of Ormus, than which no part of nature wears a more dismal appearance. Excepting a few houses, which make the capital of the place, the whole looks like a heath blasted by lightening, or burnt up by design : yet here, in this scene of dreary desolation, Solyman had the mortification to meet with an exile from the city of Ispahan.

“ Surely,”

“Surely,” said he to the unhappy man, “you must have been so unfortunate as to commit some enormous crime, condemned as you are, to this miserable abode !”

“Stranger,” replied the exile, “I have been unfortunate, but not unjust. One day, being at the Persian court, I told a gentleman who stood near me, in a low whisper, that I thought the Sultana Moratte extremely beautiful. This was my crime : and it was the decree of imperial justice, that for this I should wear out the remains of life in this dreary solitude.”

“Heavens !” said Solyman, “what madness must possess mankind, to lodge unlimited power in the hands of any human being ! When the decrees of justice must be issued by numbers united, there are many means of restraining partial or illegal sentences : self interest,

“terest, revenge, envy, and every other
“cause of perverting justice, would then
“operate feebly, when opposed by pub-
“lick shame, divided interests, and the
“open appearance of equity. But what
“comfort can you receive from useless
“declamation? I can help you to the
“means of deliverance from this wretch-
“ed prison; and I think that you are
“restrained by no principle of duty from
“embracing them; for it is impossible,
“that divine power should enforce obe-
“dience to the decrees of injustice. I
“am now about to travel through In-
“dia: at my return, I will again visit
“Ormuz and you; and if you shall be
“inclined to exchange your prison for
“the spacious kingdoms of Europe, I
“will procure you a passage thither.”

The Exile heard these words with in-
conceiveable transport: he threw him-
self at the feet of Solyman, and expressed
his

his delight in one emphatical word, crying out, "Liberty, liberty!" the pleasure of the traveller was scarce inferior to that of the Exile. "Surely," said he to himself, "the diffusion of happiness is the highest bliss that the human heart is capable of! I feel more delight in the hope of defeating the malice of injurious power, than in any thing I have ever met with, either before or since the beginning of my travels."

CHAP.



C H A P. X.

SOLYMAN now left Ormus, and proceeded towards the frontiers of India. Though the country lies nearly in the same climate with the southern provinces of Persia, yet the aspect of it is different; and it is furnished with other kinds of plants and animals, as well as with people of a different complexion, and different manners: indeed, nature seems to have made the intercourse of distant nations necessary, by supplying each with some peculiar conveniencies.

Solyman passed not through the provinces of the Mogul's empire, without instruction,

instruction, as well as amusement. He was skilled in the natural history of plants and animals; and he found here abundant opportunity to exercise that kind of knowledge. He was often amused by observing how nearly brutish sense borders upon human reason, in the reflecting sagacity of the elephant, and the adroit mischief of the baboon.

Small, however, in comparison, was the pleasure he received from the natural rarities of India, to that which the excellent administration of justice in the several provinces afforded him. The police of that country appeared to him most wisely calculated for the preservation of peace and property; the magistrates that were appointed to administer justice in their several districts, being obliged to keep persons continually employed to watch the dealings of commerce, and attend both the public and
private

private transactions; for the iniquity of which themselves were to be accountable, and the emperor might always be appealed to.

But when he came to Dehli, the capital of the Mogul's empire, his opinion of the Indian policy was much altered. He there had the mortification to find a ministry of wives, and a court of concubines, at whose discretion the principal posts in the civil and military establishments were usually disposed of; and he who was most recommended by his person and address, was sure to obtain the highest office in the legislature or the army. To find that the bands of music at court consisted only of women, gave him no disgust: "there," said the traveller, "the ladies are in their proper sphere. Let them cultivate all the soft and engaging graces; let them employ themselves in the embellishments of art, and
"the

“ the excursions of fancy : but let them
 “ not interfere in the important concerns
 “ of government ; nor raise those to the
 “ places of power, whose accomplish-
 “ ments are suited only to their taste.”

As Solyman was displeased with the
 caballing arts of the Indian ladies, so he
 was shocked at their inhuman and unnatu-
 ral superstition. With horror and amaze-
 ment did he sometimes behold a woman
 in the bloom of life and beauty, rush
 into the flames, to accompany the manes
 of her dead husband : and if nature shud-
 dered at the thought of this dreadful sa-
 crifice, or female softness shrunk into
 fear or irresolution ; he beheld a number
 of diabolical priests, with execrable
 screams and faces of horror, pushing
 forward the poor trembling reluctant wo-
 man to the burning pile. “ Eternal Mi-
 “ thra !” said the afflicted youth, “ what
 “ havock does superstition make among
 “ thy

“ thy works? when once that fiend en-
“ ters the human heart, nature and rea-
“ son are driven out ; their sacred lights
“ are wholly extinguished : truth and hu-
“ manity are trampled upon ; and the
“ detested fury leads her infatuated vo-
“ taries, through the horrors of dark-
“ ness into the arms of death !

C H A P.



C H A P. XI.

SOLYMAN was the more affected by this infernal custom, as he feared it might one day be the fate of a lady, with whom he had contracted an intimate friendship, and for whom he had the most tender regard. This amiable person was a native of Dehli, and her name Almena. As the houses in which they lodged were contiguous, she first drew his attention by her music, which was her favourite employment, and in which she was greatly skilled. Solyman had a taste for all the fine arts; and after the inquiries and observations of the day, he

he felt an irresistible pleasure, in listening, from his portico, to the evening music of Almena. His heart soon became prejudiced in favour of a lady, who had afforded him so much entertainment; and he wished for nothing more than an opportunity of expressing his gratitude.

It was usual for Almena to take a morning walk in the suburbs of Dehli, Solyman observed this; and introduced himself to her conversation, by paying his acknowledgements. There is some secret attraction in congenial natures, which draws them together, without the forms of a long acquaintance. Solyman was soon convinced, that he discovered, in Almena, a disposition perfectly suited to his own: her conversation was the picture of a mind enlarged by virtue, and enlightened by learning: she had none of the trifling follies or the insignificant

cant levity of her sex; yet her manner was animated and chearful: she had no ebullitions of giddy wit; but her language was the clear and natural image of polished sense, and unaffected knowledge. Solyman left no means unattempted to cultivate a friendship that promised so much felicity. He constantly attended Almena on her morning walk; and, at every interview, entertained some new sentiments in her favour. Her heart was not less benevolent than his own: You have seen, my friend," said she, "almost every thing in Dehli, that "is worth the attention of a stranger: "but I suppose you do not make it your "business, as a traveller, merely to attend to what is uncommon or magnificent, nor*merely to explore the different operations of nature, and manners of men. Travel must afford you many "opportunities to relieve the indigent, "to comfort the afflicted, to inform the ignorant,

“ ignorant, or rescue the oppressed.
 “ Within the compass of my morning
 “ walk, there is a village, the inhabi-
 “ tants of which I call my people; they
 “ are all poor: to those that are able to
 “ labour, I propose rewards for the
 “ greatest industry; and those who are
 “ incapacitated by age or sickness, I take
 “ under my own protection.

It is easy to conceive how much Solyman would be delighted with this account of Almena. When he found that to all the elegant graces of female softness, she added the virtues of benevolence, his friendship for her was heightened into the most refined affection. On the other hand, her regard for Solyman increased in proportion as she became acquainted with his improved understanding, and generous temper: for virtue loves her own image, wherever it is found.



C H A P. XII.

SOLYMAN had now passed many days at Dehli, in this pleasing intercourse of friendship; happy to assist his Almena in the diffusion of happiness, charmed with her virtues, and delighted with her conversation. The time, however, approached, when he was to think of his expedition into Europe: but the friendship of Almena, bound to his heart by stronger ties than that which he had before contracted with the Merchant, overballanced at once every thought of his voyage: he had, therefore, determined to remain at Dehli; when the poor

E Exile

Exile at Ormus came into his mind. He started at the thought, as he would have done at the ghost of Ardavan. " 'Tis done, " said he: " Adieu to Almena ; " adieu to the dear delights of her " friendship, if they must be purchased " at the expence of virtue!"

There is no precept of human wisdom conceived to be of greater use, and, therefore, none more frequently urged, than that we should learn to avoid the evils of life, from the irregularities and misfortunes of others: yet, important as this precept may be, it is, like most others, universally neglected. We observe, indeed, the events of life; and enquire into their causes, with insatiable curiosity: but we seldom draw any conclusions for the direction of our own conduct; we hear or read only for amusement; and the story passes by, without leaving any traces of instruction.

Solyman,

Solyman, who, from the first setting out on his travels, had received the strongest convictions of the distresses of love, without the least caution or resistance, suffered that passion to make its inroads under the appearance of friendship; and he now felt all the anguish, which he had before been a witness to near the village of Abdat. Not once, however, did he hesitate between love and virtue: the torrent of his grief for the loss of Almena, violent as it was, could not bear down his determined integrity.

With a heart full of the most piercing sorrow, he went to take leave of his beloved friend: he resolved, nevertheless, to explain the cause of his departure with the most serene indifference, determined not to affect his Almena by the appearance of sorrow; he resolved—and threw himself at her feet in speechless anguish.

Almena beheld his grief, with united sorrow and surprize ; and, with tears that flowed from pity and friendship, intreated him to discover the cause of his distress. “ It is in vain, Almena,” said he ; “ it is in vain, any longer to hide “ my heart from you : nor, indeed, “ should I act the part of friendship, to “ dissemble its feelings. I who was yesterday the happiest of mankind in the “ enjoyment of your conversation, am “ now the most miserable. By the indispensable laws of honour and humanity, I am called from Dehli : but “ alas ! by the love of Almena, I am induced to stay. I know, my friend, “ there is no alternative : but that knowledge is my misery. I go, then, from “ you and from happiness ; perhaps, never more to enjoy either : but when “ I am far from you, it will be some consolation to believe, that you will remember

“member the love and the truth of Soly-
“man.”

Almena, as well as the emotions of
her heart would give her leave, replied ;
“Go, my friend, go, where your virtue
“leads you ; and Providence be your
“guide ! Your friendship, while I have
“life, shall not be forgotten : no ; Alme-
“na shall always respect your memory,
“and love you with the same affection
“as she does the dearest of her friends.”

A flood of tears followed these words ;
and Solyman, unable any longer to be-
hold her sorrow, precipitately withdrew.



C H A P. XIII.

DEPRIVED of that serenity which ever waits on conscious virtue, when free from the great calamities of life, the innocent, the once happy Solyman, was now become the child of affliction. He repassed the provinces of India in deep melancholy, unaffected by every thing that might excite curiosity, or exercise speculation. But, behold the power of virtue! and be convinced, whoever thou art that readest this story, that there is nothing equally capable of alleviating the afflictions which are incident to human life.

When

When he arrived at Ormus, and beheld the joy of the poor Exile at the sight of his deliverer ; he felt a torrent of pleasure in his breast, overflowing all the oppositions that grief had raised against it. " O that Almena," said he, " were present ! that I could communicate to her the happiness I feel, in rescuing this poor Persian from the oppression of tyranny ! how would her gentle heart rejoice, and indulge itself, with Solyman, in the delights of benevolence ! Fate has been severe in dividing those, whose souls were made for each other : but it has left me this happiness, and I enjoy it."

Solyman was now about to apply to his friend the Merchant, who was still upon the coast, to procure a passage for the Exile : but he could not resist the desire of writing immediately to Almena ; and from Ormus he sent the following letter.

TO ALMENA.

Shall Solyman be pardoned, if he intrude once more on the quiet of Almena? Dearest, best of women, I come not to wound thy gentle heart with my complaints: you shall not be told what I have suffered since my departure: no, Almena! you shall only know what I have enjoyed. The poor Exile, whom I mentioned to you at Dehli, is still in Ormus. When he perceived me from the rocks, on which he used to wander daily to watch my coming, he flew towards me in an extacy of joy, crying out, "Liberty! my deliverer! liberty!" Here was a scene, my friend, that might have overballanced every thing, but the loss of your company. For that, Almena!—forgive me—for that, I must yet shed a tear. - Adieu!

Solyman.

C H A P.



CHAP. XIV.

AFTER the dismissal of this letter, he went immediately to visit the Merchant who received him with the warmest expressions of friendship. "Welcome," said he, "my valuable friend! "whose uncommon virtues have made "you devote the pleasurable season of "life to the acquisition of knowledge, "and the distribution of happiness."

"For the latter of these purposes," said Solyman, "I now wait upon you. "In the isle of Ormus is an unhappy "Persian, whom the capricious cruelty "of his prince has condemned to per-

E 5

"petual

"petual exile in that dismal prison.
 "Were he a criminal, justice should have
 "its course; I might then have beheld
 "him with pity, but should not have
 "meditated his deliverance: but he is
 "innocent, my friend, he is innocent and
 "suffers. Cannot you assist me to ef-
 "fect his escape? cannot he have that
 "passage to Europe, which you oblig-
 "ingly offered me?"

"To facilitate the escape of an Exile,"
 replied the Merchant, "were as much
 "as my interest and safety are worth in
 "Persia. I must not be concerned in it:
 "but I will introduce you to the captain
 "of a ship, and engage him to serve
 "you in every thing you shall desire:
 "after which, if you can take the Exile
 "along with you in disguise, or by any
 "other means as your friend or atten-
 "dant, perhaps he may escape without
 "much difficulty or danger. I have dis-
 "patched my business on the coast, and
 "am

"am obliged to return to Ispahan : let us
" now therefore, if you please, wait up-
" on the captain."

Solyman, as he had been in hopes of procuring the Exile a passage without going himself into Europe, from which the friendship of Almena had weaned his inclinations ; was somewhat embarrassed by this account. However, as he was determined at all events to deliver the poor Persian, he went immediately to the apartments of the captain, to whom the Merchant recommended him as a particular friend, who wanted to make the tour of Europe. The captain received them with the freedom and cheerfulness peculiar to his station, and promised Solyman the best accommodations of his ship ; but told him, that she must remain there a few months before she could get out of the gulph.

Of this delay, tho' not answerable to his impatient wishes for the deliverance of the Exile, Solyman resolved to make use, in visiting his father and the valley of Irwan. As soon, therefore, as he had acquainted the Exile with what he had to hope, and advised him to provide secretly for his voyage, and his subsistence in a distant country, he sailed from the gulph up the Euphrates, as far as where the Tigris empties itself into that river, and from thence proceed by land to the valley of Irwan.

CHAP.



C H A P. XV.

THE venerable Ardavan had ascended an eminence near his house, to enjoy the beauties of the summer evening, and to offer up a prayer to the departing sun for Solyman, when Solyman appeared before him.

What language can paint the emotions of paternal affection ! the feeble remains of aged life twice fainted beneath the weight of joy. At length recovering, he cried, “ It is enough——Solyman lives !
 “ Heaven has regarded the virtues of my
 “ son,

“son, and restored him to the arms of
“Ardavan.”

Solyman was not less affected by this meeting ; nor less delighted to find his aged parent still enjoying health and reason, in the decline of life. But his happiness was allayed with anxiety. He visited the favourite scenes of his native valley, in hopes of finding that delight, which he thought to be connected with the idea of them ; but his imagination was still at Dehli. As love and melancholy are of the sisterhood of poetry, he had not been long in the valley before he wrote the following lines.

T.O

T O

A L M E N A

From the Banks of the Irwan.

Where trembling poplars shade their
 parent vale,
 And tune to melody the mountain gale ;
 Where Irwan murmurs musically flow,
 And breathing breezes through his oziers
 blow ;
 Friend of my heart, behold thy poet laid
 In the dear silence of his native shade !
 Ye sacred vales, where oft the muse, un-
 seen,
 Led my light steps along the moon-light
 green ;
 Ye scenes, where peace and fancy held
 their reign
 For ever lov'd, and once enjoy'd again !
 Ah!

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Ah ! where is, now, that nameless bliss
refin'd

That tranquil hour, that vacancy of mind ?

As sweet, the wild rose bares its balmy
breast ;

As soon, the breeze with murmurs sooths
to rest

As smooth, the stream of silver Irwan
flows ;

As fair, each flower along his border
blows :

Yet dwells not here that nameless bliss re-
fin'd,

That tranquil hour, that vacancy of
mind.

Is it that knowledge is allied to woe ;

And are we happy, only ere we know ?

Is it that hope withholds her golden ray,

That fancy's fairy visions fade away ?

Or can I, distant far from all that's dear,

Be happy only when Almena's near ?

That

That truth, the feelings of my heart disclose :

Too dear the friendship for the friend's repose.

Thus mourn'd the muse, when, thro' his
ofiers wild,

The hill-born Irwan rais'd his head, and
smil'd :

" Child of my hopes," he fondly cried,
" forbear :

" Nor let thy Irwan witness thy despair."

" Has Peace indeed forsook my flow'ry
shore ?

" Shall Fame and Hope and Fancy charm
" no more ?

" Tho' Fame and hope in kindred air
" depart,

" Yet fancy still should hold thee to her
" heart :

" For, at thy birth, the village hind has
" seen

" Her light wings waving o'er the sha-
" dowy green ;

" With

With rosy wreaths she crown'd the new
 " born hours,

" And rival Fairies fill'd thy bed with
 " flowers :

" In vain——if grief shall waste thy
 " blooming years,

" And life dissolve in solitude and tears."

Where are the delights of the valley of Irwan, where the flowery variety of its pastures and meadows, its hills that rose gradually to meet the morning Sun, and its groves that spread their foliage to exclude the heats of mid-day? Wrapt in the gloom of pensive solitude, the son of Ardavan was now negligent of these, and of all that once delighted or amused him. In vain did his father desire a relation of his travels ; and in vain did he begin it : when he attempted to speak of Persepolis he gave a description of Dehli ; when he was asked after some other place, he mentioned

mentioned the village of Almena : instead of describing the people of India, he described the person of Almena ; and when an account of their manners was requested, “ her manners,” he replied, “ are such, as the immortal Mithra looks down upon with delight.”

CHAP.



CHAP. XVI.

A RDAVAN was now no longer at a loss to account for the gloomy inconsistency of his son's behaviour : but willing to be still more convinced of what he suspected to be the cause, he applied to his passions the story of those lovers whom he had recommended to his care. At the mention of the lovers, Solyman was roused from his melancholy negligence, into the most eager attention. " Tell me, my father," said the impatient youth ; " tell me, I entreat you, the fate of the lovers."

" I thank

“ I thank you,” replied the sage, “ for
 “ putting it in my power to assist the un-
 “ fortunate. From your compassion for
 “ the sufferings of these lovers, and your
 “ attempt to alleviate them, you will feel
 “ more sensibly the power of the same
 “ consolation, when your own heart be-
 “ comes a prey to the distresses of love.”

Solyman discovered, by his emotions,
 the effect which this short preface had
 upon him.

“ You know,” continued Ardavan,
 “ a small building which I erected some
 “ years ago for a retreat in the summer
 “ months : you remember its situation,
 “ in the depth of a spacious wood ; which
 “ is only accessible by one narrow passage,
 “ to which I have provided a door, so be-
 “ set with evergreens, that it is impossi-
 “ ble for the most curious eye to per-
 “ ceive it : the canal of running water in
 “ the middle of the wood, and the beau-
 “ tiful

“ tiful grafs-plot, I have extended, ſince
“ you left me, to the ſummer houſe.
“ To this place I conducted the lovers as
“ ſoon as I had heard their ſtory. There
“ they continued for ſome time, attended
“ by one of my faithful domeſtics, who
“ ſupplied them with every neceſſary ;
“ and they were viſited almoſt every day
“ by myſelf. O, my ſon, how exquisite
“ was the delight to behold the happineſs
“ of this innocent pair, and at the ſame
“ time to conſider myſelf as in ſome mea-
“ ſure contributing to it ! ſurely, this
“ was to partake of the pleaſure of the
“ Deity, which we believe to conſiſt in
“ his univerſal power of removing evil
“ and diſpenſing good !

“ After ſome time I was informed,
“ that the Khan of Bukharia, who had
“ purchaſed the maiden of her father
“ was depoſed and baniſhed by the Sophi.
“ This gave us new hopes ; and it was
“ agreed that the youth ſhould return to
“ Abdat,

“ Abdat, to learn the disposition of the
 “ unnatural parent. He accordingly
 “ went; and told him, that he would
 “ endeavour to find his daughter, upon
 “ condition he would consent to their
 “ marriage. The wretch, though he
 “ was no stranger to their mutual passi-
 “ on, insisted, that no man should ever
 “ have his daughter, who would not pay
 “ the same price for her which the Khan
 “ of Bukharia had offered.

“ As this price far exceeded the abi-
 “ lity of the lover, he returned to Irwan,
 “ fallen from those pleasing hopes, which
 “ he had so lately formed, of enjoying at
 “ once his love and his liberty. The fa-
 “ ther, convinced that his daughter was
 “ in the possession of the young man, and
 “ not now without hopes of recovering
 “ her, and offering her again to sale, hi-
 “ red a set of ruffians to watch his return,
 “ and to extort from him a confession of
 “ the place where she was secreted. Of
 “ this

“ this design, however, he was timely
“ apprized by an honest villager of Ab-
“ dat, to whom one of the ruffians had
“ communicated their business; and he
“ came off in disguise, and escaped their
“ notice.

“ About two months after, it was re-
“ ported that the father had died of vex-
“ ation, for the disappointment of his ava-
“ ritious views: I, therefore, dispatched
“ a servant to enquire into the truth of
“ this report; and finding it confirmed,
“ conducted the lovers to Abdat without
“ further apprehension. The maiden,
“ who was an only child, inherited her
“ father’s fortune, which was very con-
“ siderable: but as great part of it had
“ been amassed by oppression, she made
“ restitution of those whom his avarice
“ had injured, and she now enjoys the
“ remainder with happiness and her
“ lover.”

“ What

"What you tell me," said Solyman,
 "gives me inexpressible satisfaction : for
 "the lovers are possessed of eminent vir-
 "tue ; and to be instrumental to the
 "happiness of virtuous lovers, is the
 "most delightful task within the province
 "of benevolence. Indeed those hearts
 "only, that are generous and noble, can
 "be capable of the tender sensibility of
 "love : for the breast which harbours ma-
 "lignity and envy, can never feel the
 "sympathetic tenderness, which is the
 "very essence of that gentle passion."

"Your observation," replied the sage,
 "may be very just ; and it is, therefore,
 "the more necessary for those, to whom
 "nature and the principles of a virtuous
 "education have given the blessing of an
 "open heart, to guard against the in-
 "roads of that passion : if there is no
 "probability of an uninterrupted enjoy-
 "ment of its object, they should look
 "upon its advances, as on an evil that

F

" will

“ will destroy their peace. The plea-
 “ sures of real love are, perhaps, the most
 “ refined, the most delicate and sensible,
 “ of any that we are capable of enjoying:
 “ but, believe me, those are fortunate
 “ lovers, who are indemnified, by these,
 “ for the many uneasy hours, the rest-
 “ less anxieties, and the painful appre-
 “ hensions they undergo.”

In these general terms did Ardavan
 deliver his instructions to his son, who
 received them with a silent conviction of
 their truth and propriety ; and immedi-
 ately after this conversation, retired to
 offer up the following prayer to the Sun
 for Almena.

“ Incomparable, and everlasting !
 “ whose universal eye sees nothing fairer,
 “ nothing more virtuous than Almena ;
 “ O let that eye look upon her with the
 “ vigilance of a parent. She most resem-
 “ bles thee in the continual exercise of
 “ beneficence :

" beneficence : cherish, therefore, those
 " virtues, that are congenial with thy
 " own ; and let the dear possessor,
 " through thy benignant influence, enjoy
 " the constant blessings of health and
 " chearfulness : but if some portion of
 " sorrow be the birthright of every hu-
 " man being, Immortal Mithra ! may
 " Almena only sigh for the absence of
 " her friend."

F 2 CHAP.



CHAP. XVII.

IN such exercises did Solyman employ his retired hours, till the time approached for his return to Ormus. As he was determined, if possible, to avoid going into Europe, he made no mention of that circumstance to his father : his engagements to the Exile were a sufficient reason for his departure ; and, in a short time, he arrived at the gulph, and waited upon the English captain, who, was preparing for his voyage. Solyman informed him, that upon some interesting occasion he was obliged to relinquish his design of visiting Europe ; but
that

that he would recommend a Persian lady to his care, who was bound for England; and he begged that she might enjoy all the retirement her situation could afford. As no objection was made to this proposal, he privately purchased the habit of a Persian lady, which he concealed some days on the coast of Ormus; and under favour of the night, he found no difficulty to procure a boat to the English vessel. In a few hours they got under sail; and having received repeated assurances of the captain's care, and engaged the good offices of his crew by a handsome gratuity, he procured a passage by sea to the coast of India.

The state of his heart was now very different from what it had been a few days before: he had discharged his engagements to the Exile, with all the success that he could wish; and his face was now set towards Dehli. On he travelled with the eager pace of a lover, and in a

few days reached the capital of the Mogul's empire.

The evening he arrived, he flew to the house of Almena, who received him with emotions of tenderness which she was scarcely able to conceal. When the first salutations were passed, she asked him, how he had disposed of the Exile, and why he did not accompany him to Europe as he had proposed. He informed her by what means he had procured the Exile's escape; adding, that from the letters he had written, if she had received them, she might at once see the reason both of his rejecting the European voyage, and his return to Dehli.

“What would it have availed me,” said he, “to have visited the distant regions of the universe? What pleasure or amusement could I have expected to find in Europe, when all my heart holds dear was still in Asia? Believe me,

“ me, this place is now more than the
 “ whole world to me ; and the friendship
 “ of Almena is the only pleasure I can
 “ enjoy.”

“ I have received your letters,” said
 she ; “ and if they speak the language of
 “ your heart, I am no stranger to its feel-
 “ ings. To deal ingenuously with you, I
 “ am sensible of your merit, and admire
 “ your virtues : and were I not more
 “ happy in my present condition, than I
 “ could hope to be in any other ; I know
 “ not the man, with whom I would ra-
 “ ther divide the enjoyments of life, than
 “ with Solyman.

“ Is it possible then,” said Solyman,
 “ that you can think the condition of ce-
 “ libacy happier than that of marriage ?
 “ Undoubtedly, the principal happiness
 “ of mankind depends on the intercourse
 “ of society, and the connexions of friend-
 “ ship : marriage is nothing else but a

“ state of friendship, in which the friends
 “ by uniting their interests, have a con-
 “ stant and uninterrupted enjoyment of
 “ each other. Nature aids this union,
 “ and reason approves it: can any condi-
 “ tion bid fairer for happiness, than that,
 “ in which the mutual delights of friend-
 “ ship can only be torn from us by the
 “ hand of death ?”

“ There may be some truth,” answer-
 ed she, “ in what you observe : but
 “ there is an inconstancy in human na-
 “ ture, that makes it dangerous even for
 “ two friends, to enter into any connexi-
 “ on that cannot be broken ; and an un-
 “ accountable caprice, that makes us
 “ quarrel with our happiness, because
 “ we are sure of enjoying it.”

“ Were we deterred from every pur-
 suit,” said Solyman, “ by the apprehen-
 “ sion of those inconveniencies, which
 “ the foibles and frailties of our nature
 “ might

" might bring upon us ; we should ne-
 " ver be either virtuous or happy, but
 " might languish away our lives in soli-
 " tary and unsocial indolence. To avoid
 " the inconveniencies of human incon-
 " stancy, marriage is, surely, the best
 " institution in the world : for what could
 " be more likely to fix the inconstant,
 " than the habitual intercourse of kind-
 " nefs and good offices ; than that grati-
 " tude, which is due to the long exercise
 " of affectionate tenderness ; and those
 " dear pledges, which must depend for
 " happiness and support on the unanimity
 " of their parents ?

" There is, indeed, an insuperable ob-
 " jection to your being married in India :
 " I mean that contempt, or that horrid al-
 " ternative of torture, which is entailed
 " on the unhappy woman who survives
 " her husband. But that objection shall
 " vanish immediately," continued the
 lover with a look of passionate earnestness :

“ let us go, my friend, let us go to love
 “ and happiness, in the valley of Irwan.
 “ That place, which so lately afforded a
 “ retreat to the lovers whose distresses I
 “ have related to you, shall then become
 “ eternally sacred to love and friendship :
 “ that place, whose beautiful scenes I so
 “ lately beheld with indifference, I shall
 “ then visit with rapture. Ecstasy is in
 “ the thought ! to enjoy, with Almena,
 “ the shades of Irwan ; with her to walk
 “ in my native fields ; with her to sit
 “ down on the banks of my favourite
 “ stream ; for her to pluck the flower,
 “ whose beauty may have drawn her at-
 “ tention : to lead her through those ro-
 “ mantic scenes, that delighted the inno-
 “ cent enthusiasm of my childhood ; and
 “ to shew her the more solitary retreats,
 “ which I sought when her friendship had
 “ first taught me to sigh !”

Thus

Thus Solyman poured out the natural and passionate sensations of love; and Almena, whose heart was far from being indifferent to him, easily caught the enthusiasm. "To your honour, and your friendship," said she, "I can trust every thing. I am ready to attend you to those scenes, of which you have given me so lively a description: whether they may answer it or not, or whatever they may be, the friendship of Solyman will make them agreeable."

It is easier to conceive than to express the joy which the lover felt upon this declaration. Within a few days they set forward from Dehli, on their journey to the valley of Irwan; and for the greater expedition, and the less fatigue, they determined to go by sea, and accordingly proceeded to the coast, where they went on board a trading vessel bound for the Persian gulph.



C H A P. XVIII.

AT that time there was war between two petty princes of the hither peninsula of India ; and unfortunately, the ship in which they embarked belonged to one of these powers. They had not proceeded above five leagues from the coast, when they were pursued by the foe. After an obstinate and bloody engagement, they were boarded ; and their enemies, when they had stripped the vessel of every thing valuable, dismissed it.

They dismissed the vessel ; but they took Almena. What heart does not bleed

bleed; what eye does not shed a tear, for the miserable Solyman? They dismissed the vessel; but they took Almena. Prayers, and tears, and agony and anguish, were vain. The lover saw his dear, trembling, fainting maid, dragged by the hands of the unfeeling sailors into their own ship, after they had bound him to prevent the effects of his rage. "I ask not for your mercy," cried the wretched youth: "only take me into your vessel along with that lady, and prepare your tortures, your racks, and wheels; for me prepare them, and let me perish before these eyes lose sight of Almena!"

While Solyman was vainly uttering these pitiable exclamations, the enemy steered away, and were in a short time out of sight. The men of the ship in which he was, apprehensive of some bad consequences from the violence of his rage, were prudent enough to let him continue
bound;

bound ; while he now loaded them with the reproachful terms of slaves and cowards, and now excited them by promises or intreated them by prayers, to pursue the foe. The ship having lost her freight, did not proceed on her intended voyage, but returned to the coast of India.

When they arrived, Solyman was informed, that the vessel which had taken them belonged to the king of Sundah, who at that time was at war with the king of Kanara. Upon this information, as soon as he had received intelligence of the situation of the kingdom of Sundah, he went immediately in quest of Almena. Though almost worn to death with fatigue and sorrow, he travelled night and day, till he reached the country. But alas! when he was there, what could he do? Stranger as he was to the people, and in a great measure to their language, he had as much to hope from chance, as from

from application, for the discovery of Almena.

He would now have sunk under the weight of his misfortunes, had he not availed himself of the first advice of Ardavan, and firmly relied on the Eternal Providence. "Immortal Mithra!" said the afflicted youth; "thou beholdest me
"oppressed with misery: but thy beams
"still shine upon me; and while I enjoy
"thy light, I will hope for thy favour!"

Thus comforting himself, he still continued his search; depending, for the necessary supports of nature, on the precarious bounty of the villages through which he passed; frequently making the mountain rocks the refuge of his night's repose, when nature, exhausted with toil and sorrow, in her own defence inclined him to sleep. He wandered incessantly from town to town, and from province to province; often exposed to the attacks
of

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of savage beasts, and often suffering the insults of the more savage people.

Having in vain gone over a large tract of the inland country, he now confined his search to the coast, in hopes that he might again see the vessel which took his Almena. Day by day he wandered on the beach, constantly casting his eyes on the immense waste of waters, and watching the approach of every vessel that he saw, with the same impatience of expectation, as if he had been assured that it contained Almena.

CHAP.



CHAP. XIX.

AS he was walking one evening by the castle of Sevasir, he heard a mournful voice proceeding from a garden within the fort. Solyman never neglected the voice of sorrow: he went nearer to the place from whence it seemed to proceed; and looking through the iron palisadoes with which the garden was encompassed, he beheld a lady sitting in a melancholy posture on a flower-bank at a small distance.

In the irresistible transport of his heart he cried aloud, "Almena!" The lady rose; and as she came towards him, he perceived.

perceived his mistake : " Pardon me, madam," said he, " I am an unhappy man, who have lost every thing that is dear to me in a lady, whom I have sought, in vain, for many months in this province ; where I have still reason to believe she is confined, if, indeed she yet lives ; if she is not fallen a sacrifice to her own miseries, or to the barbarous cruelty of the villains who tore her from me."

" Stranger," said the lady, " it is long since I have known any comfort myself, and I am afraid I can have little for you. Your miseries affect me much : the same did my beloved husband once undergo, for whom I now mourn, and must for ever mourn in hopeless sorrow."

" Is your husband then dead," said Solyman ; " or is he only lost to you, as Almena is to me ? if the latter is the case,

“case, you may yet have hope: the all-
 “seeing eye of Providence looks down
 “upon all his creatures, and he will as-
 “suredly redress the misfortunes of the
 “virtuous.”

“We were inhabitants,” replied the
 lady, “of the kingdom of Kanara. The
 “Sundians, made an incursion into
 “our territories, and amongst many o-
 “ther wretched people, carried off my
 “husband and me.—” “How, madam!”
 interrupted Solyman; “they were
 “merciful if they suffered your husband
 “to accompany you.” “Their mercy,”
 said she, “did not extend so far:
 “they presented me to the governor
 “of this castle; and my husband they
 “imprisoned in a distant part of the
 “kingdom.”

“Ever since I came within these ha-
 “ted walls, their savage master has aggra-
 “vated my miseries, by the mortifying
 “offers

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" offers of his love } totally regardless
 " of my sorrow and distraction, a thou-
 " sand times has the unfeeling wretch
 " insulted my torn heart with odious
 " caresses, and still continues to persecute
 " me in the same manner, upbraiding me
 " with ingratitude for what he calls his
 " kindness in permitting me to live. But
 " I am not alone in my misfortunes:
 " here are numbers of unhappy women
 " under the same confinement, whose
 " sufferings too nearly resemble my own.
 " Some of them, like me, have still re-
 " sisted the importunities of the tyrant ;
 " while others more, I hope, through
 " fear than inclination, have unhappily
 " submitted to his will."

At these words terror and apprehen-
 sion were again roused in the heart of So-
 lyman, and created a conflict that shook
 his frame. He stood aghast and moti-
 onless for a moment : at last recollecting
 himself, "Is there," said he, "tell me,
 "madam,

“madam, is there a lady within these
 “ walls, a native of Dehli, who was
 “ taken some months ago from on board
 “ a Kanarian vessel by the Sundians?”

“ To that question,” said the lady,
 “ I can make no answer : we are all kept
 “ in different apartments, and not al-
 “ lowed to converse with each other ; we
 “ are not even permitted, but alone, to
 “ walk in these gardens : and should I
 “ now be observed to talk with you,
 “ though through these detested bars,
 “ my future liberty would probably be en-
 “ dangered. All that you can do to know,
 “ whether the lady you have lost be in
 “ this place, is to attend at the different
 “ hours of the day near these palisadoes ;
 “ where you will be able to observe,
 “ in their respective turns, the appear-
 “ ance of the women in the gardens.
 “ But you will incur great danger in the
 “ experiment :

“ experiment : and, after all, should you
 “ find that your lady is here, what can
 “ it avail you? You will only have the
 “ mortification to know it without being
 “ able to rescue her.

CHAP.



C H A P. XX.

SOLYMAN took his leave of the lady; and having formed his resolution, waited with the utmost impatience for the light of morning. He happened, indeed, to be so far secured from suspicion, as to be drest in a Sundian habit, which belonged to an officer of the ship that carried off Almena, who compelled him to take it in exchange for his own. But insensible of danger, at the earliest dawn he hastened to his post, and passed the day in alternate hope and despair: he saw many women, but he saw not Almena. In the evening therefore, regretting the disappointment

disappointment even of those expectations which he dreaded to have confirmed, he resolved to quit his station till the return of morning, when, by the glimmering of the moon, he perceived another lady enter the garden.

As she came nearer, her image glanced through his heart more swiftly, than the lightning smites the traveller on the mountains of Hima. The lady was Almena. In a burst of transport he cried, "Almena! Solyman!" struck at once with the voice, the name, and the figure of Solyman, surprize overcame her, and she fell senseless upon the terras.

Solyman, unable to enter the garden, in an agony of terror, cried out, "Save, save my Almena!" at the same time running round the walls in the utmost distraction. His exclamations alarmed the guard, who immediately secured him;

him; though, from his cries and confusion, they concluded him to be mad, and made their report of him as such to the governor of the castle, who ordered him to be immediately brought before him.

Solyman, the moment he beheld the governor, fiercely cried out, "I conjure thee, if thou art a human being, let me instantly fly to the relief of a lady in thy gardens." The governor was alarmed by an appearance of reason in this request, and ordered him to be secured, while he went himself into the gardens to know if there was any foundation for it. There he found Almena supporting herself against the wall, not having perfectly recovered either her strength or reason. "Art thou indeed my Solyman," said she, "If thou art my Solyman, support me in thy arms." In his arms he took her, and bore her to a pavilion, where he held her till her

G

reason

reason returned. She turned her eyes full upon him, and, with a look of fear and horror, shrunk from his embrace.

“Tell me, madam; I beseech you, “tell me,” said the Governor, “what “is the cause of this distraction? Why “are those dear eyes so full of wildness “and horror, and why do you look up- “on your protector with such aversion? “Is there then some other person more “happy in your favour and affection, “and must I for ever languish at your “feet in vain?”

“If thou hast any other affection, for “me,” said Almena, “than that which “is inspired by brutal instinct; if thou “hast more feeling than the walls that “surround thee, thou wilt surely pity “me. The dear unhappy man, whom “I fear ere now thy guards have seized, “is the friend, for whose loss thou hast
known

“ known me mourn ever since I came with-
 “ in thy power. Yes, thou wilt pity me ;
 “ for thou hast wept : when I related to
 “ thee my miseries, the tears of compas-
 “ sion flowed from thine eyes. Let us
 “ throw ourselves at thy feet ; let us owe
 “ our happiness to thee, and thou shalt
 “ have all the affection which is not due
 “ to Solyman.”

The weeping beauty, as she uttered these words, threw herself before him in such an agony of sorrow, and such a posture of supplication, as would have moved any heart in which vice had not extinguished every spark of humanity. Far from being affected by it, the governor of Sevasir made her the following answer : “ Absurd and vain ! to suppose
 “ that I should tamely yield that happi-
 “ ness to another, which I could never
 “ obtain myself. Know, madam, that
 “ both you and your lover are now in
 “ my power ; and that he has no indul-

“ gence to hope for, but what your
 “ kindness to me may procure him.”

With these words he withdrew ; rather less offended at the thought of having a rival in Almena’s affections, than pleased with the hope that he might terrify her into compliance, by his menaces against her lover.

Almena remained in the most pitiable distress, sharpened by painful apprehensions for her own honour, and the life of Solyman ; and wandering alone into the garden, she added one night of sorrow more to the many she had suffered.

Great God ! what misery may one villain, armed with power, bring upon thy creatures ! Were there not a state of existence, where vice shall be punished and virtue rewarded, how would thy works seem to reproach their Almighty maker ! But let the sons of men learn, that he who is infinitely wise is also perfectly
 just ;

just; and that he can as easily take cognizance of the moral conduct of his creatures, as he could at first create this immense system of the universe, in which the minutest creature declares the skill of the architect.

G 3. CHAP.



C H A P. XXI.

TH E impious tyrant of Sevasir enjoyed the balm of sleep and the refreshment of rest, while the virtuous Solyman and Almena suffered the most grievous affliction.

When the morning appeared, Nagrakut, that was the wretch's name, went at his usual hour into the garden. Almena, who was still there overcome, by the weight of continued sorrow, had sunk into a transient slumber on a bench in the pavilion. Nagrakut approached and stood by her as she slumbered. There
was

was a sight that might have excited tenderness in the breast of a savage : but it moved not the heart of Nagrakut, nor awakened any other passion in him but that of a libidinous desire. In a dream, she waved her hand, and cried, with a voice of mournful tenderness, “ Do not “murder him, Nagrakut! Let my Soly-
“man live!” then letting fall the hand she had raised, she sunk again into silent slumber.

Nagrakut yet felt no pity ; but placing himself near her on the bench, inclosed her in his arms. She awoke ; and finding herself in the embraces of the tyrant, shrieked out with the most distressful horror. Her cries pierced the cell where Solyman was confined. With the united strength of rage and terror, he burst the door of his prison ; and running through the apartments of the castle with a dagger in his hand, which he had
G 4 fortunately

fortunately snatched up in the way, he flew to the garden.

Almena was still shrieking and struggling in the arms of Nagrakut, who endeavouring to sooth her to his embraces, had not observed the approach of Solyman. "Villain," said Solyman, "remove thy execrable hands from the person of that lady, and employ them in the defence of thy own!" Nagrakut, who was the most abject coward, called aloud to his guards. "Coward! slave!" said Solyman, "draw this instant, or my dagger shall pierce thy heart." Nagrakut then fell at his feet; and begging for mercy, promised him Almena and liberty. "This moment then," said Solyman, "dismiss us from thy cursed prison." No sooner had he uttered these words, than the guards appeared. Nagrakut immediately beckoned to them to seize him: but Solyman, observing his motion,

motion, hastily ran up to him, and plunged his dagger into his heart.

The tyrant fell. No way of escape, however, was left for Solyman : he was instantly seized by the soldiers, loaded with heavy chains, and shut up, with Almena, in a strong apartment of the castle : with Almena he was shut up, for jealousy now no longer parted them ; and she was considered as an accomplice in the murder of the governor.

This circumstance administered inexpressible consolation to them both. “ At last, my Almena,” said the lover, “ fortune has brought thee to my arms : but “ after what miseries, good Heaven ! “ and in what circumstances ! Yet my “ heart never once doubted the justice or “ the care of providence ; we shall yet “ be happy in the valley of Irwan.”

The spirits of Almena were so exhausted by the successive ravages of terror, sorrow, and surprise, that she reclined for some time in the arms of Solyman, unable to speak, and only venting her grief in broken and feeble sighs. The officers of the castle of Sevasir had sent in the mean time to the King of Sundah, to know in what manner he would have the murderers of the governor executed.

The death of a villain is seldom regretted, even by those to whom his villainies have been of service. The King of Sundah always hated the governor of Sevasir; but he dared not depose him, because he had been established under him by the Mogul: he, therefore, sent no other commands to the officers of the castle, but that the prisoners should remain there 'till further orders.

Not

Not long after this, a body of Kanarians entered the country of Sundah, and laid siege to the castle of Sevasir. As the death of the governor had thrown all into confusion, the fort was easily carried; and the Kanarians took prisoners all that were within the castle. Solyman and Almena, though they could not be displeased at this change of fortune, had yet another danger to encounter, which might prove as fatal to their happiness as any they had escaped could have been.

It is a custom in the eastern nations, to present the women that are taken in war to the kings, that they may select whom they like; and the rest are divided among the officers, according to their several ranks. All the ladies that were taken in the castle of Sevasir, had this fate to undergoe; and as the governor had been curious in his choice, these women were looked upon as a most valuable capture.



C H A P. XXII.

THEY were immediately conveyed to the court of Kanara, and presented to the king for his choice. They all stood before him at the same time ; and he looked upon each of them for some minutes : but his eye dwelt longer on Almena, than the rest. Unfortunately, she observed this ; and her fear and confusion new animated her features, and gave fresh beauties to her complexion. The King immediately selected her, and the rest were dismissed.

Solyman

Solyman was all this time kept with the garrison of Sevasir, as a prisoner of war : but at length, having convinced the Kanarians, that he had no connexions with the king of Sundah, and that he was willing to enter into the service of their prince, his liberty was restored him. This was the only means by which he could attempt the recovery of Almena, who, as he was now informed, was retained by the King. He immediately repaired to the capital of Kanara ; and signifying to the officers of the court, that he had some important intelligence relating to the war, to communicate to his majesty, he gained an easy admittance to him.

When the King appeared, he prostrated himself before him ; and being commanded to speak, he thus expressed himself : “ Let the king of Kanara live ! for
 “ his ear is open to the complaints of the
 “ unhappy, and he despiseth no man for
 “ the

“ the miseries which chance hath brought
 “ upon him.” “ I am a man,” inter-
 posed the King : “ proceed.” “ It was
 “ my hand that put an end to the life of
 “ your enemy, the governor of Sevasir.”
 “ In that,” replied the prince, “ you did
 “ me a signal service : but let me know
 “ your motives ; and I shall be better
 “ able to judge of the action, as well as
 “ of my obligations to you for it.”

“ O prince !” said Solyman, “ I was
 “ possessed of a lady, more beautiful than
 “ the star that overflows its urn in the
 “ evening, and dearer to me than the life
 “ drops of my heart. We were on board
 “ a Kanarian vessel that was trading to
 “ the Persian gulph ; and were bound to
 “ the valley of Irwan in Mesopotamia,
 “ the place of my nativity : but alas ! be-
 “ fore we had proceeded many leagues
 “ from our coast, we were boarded by a
 “ pirate of Sundah. We were plundered
 “ and dismissed ; but the dear partner of
 “ my

“ my heart was taken from me. After
 “ long search I found, that she was in pos-
 “ session of the governor of Sevasir ; who,
 “ regardless of her miseries, or the prepos-
 “ sition of her heart, cruelly continued
 “ to insult her with the offer of his love.”
 “ Inhuman wretch !” interrupted the
 King ; “ but proceed.” This ejacula-
 tion gave Solyman new hopes, and he
 continued his relation.

“ Walking one evening by the gardens
 “ of the fort, I discovered her on a terras,
 “ at a small distance. She was so much
 “ surpris'd by the suddenness of my
 “ appearance, that she fainted. Being
 “ unable to enter the gardens, in my
 “ distraction I cried for help ; and my
 “ cries alarming the guard, I was seized.
 “ That night I was confined in a dun-
 “ geon of the castle ; but early the next
 “ morning hearing the shrieks of a fe-
 “ male voice, which I either knew or
 “ fear imagined to be that of my love,
 “ rage

“rage and terror gave me more than
 “natural strength, and I burst open the
 “door of my prison. I was unarmed ;
 “but, fortunately, a dagger lying in my
 “way, I snatched it up, and flew to the
 “garden from whence the voice proceed-
 “ed. There I beheld the dear object of
 “my affections trembling in the embra-
 “ces of the tyrant : at the sight of me,
 “he called aloud to his guards, cowardly
 “refusing the offer I gave him of defend-
 “ing himself against my dagger : nay,
 “he meanly begged his life, and offered
 “me, on that condition, liberty for my-
 “self and the lady ; but the guards im-
 “mediately after coming up, he beckoned
 “to them to seize me : I found time,
 “however, to thrust my dagger into his
 “base heart.” “Thus the villain perish-
 “ed”—“and justice,” said the King,
 “directed your arm.”

“O

“ O, prince !” continued Solyman,
“ I am still miserable. I have reason to
“ believe, that some of your officers will
“ detain that lady, as a prize taken in the
“ castle of Sevasir.” “ No officer of
“ mine,” replied the King, “ shall be
“ suffered to detain her : let me know her
“ name, and she shall be immediately ref-
“ tored to you.” “ Her name,” said
Solyman, “ is Almena.”

The King appeared disturbed, and
walked backward and forward for some
moments in the utmost confusion. He
knew, that Almena was the lady, whom
he had selected from the captives ; and
he had the most ardent affection for her.
In a few moments he withdrew, and com-
manded Solyman to attend him the fol-
lowing day.

C H A P.



C H A P. XXIII.

THE heart of the King was, in the mean time, distracted by different passions ; urged by the most powerful love to detain Almena, and dissuaded from that by truth, humanity, and shame. “ Am I,” said he, “ possessed of a throne, “ and shall I have no more power to indulge my wishes, than the peasant of the field ? What is the worth or the end of absolute power, if kings must tamely sacrifice their inclinations, to the creatures they were born to command ? Shall I give up such beauty as that of Almena ! a beauty that has
“ smitten

" smitten my heart, and inspired me with
 " such tenderness of affection as I never
 " yet felt for woman ? But Almena was
 " Solyman's ! it might be so ; but she
 " is now mine. Possession goes from one
 " to another, according to the laws of na-
 " tions ; and, by those laws Almena is
 " mine.

" Why then do I feel these uneasy sen-
 " sations, as much at the thoughts of
 " keeping, as of parting with her ?—The
 " laws of nature, the unvariable laws of
 " nature and truth create them. The
 " laws of nations ought always to be
 " founded on these ; and these suggest to
 " me, that to keep Almena, would be
 " most injurious and inhuman. Shall I,
 " who have condemned that in another,
 " as a crime which deserved the punish-
 " ment of death, commit the very same
 " myself ? what a detestable hypocrite
 " should I appear ! Shall I, who promised
 " the lover, that none of my officers
 " should

“ should deprive him of Almena ; shall I
 “ degrade the king, by doing what I
 “ would have punished in a subject ? I
 “ love Almena, and should be exquisitely
 “ happy in the enjoyment of her ; but
 “ shall I, therefore, make her miserable ?
 “ how should I ever partake of happiness,
 “ if the object of my affections lived with
 “ me in fullen discontent, or inconsolable
 “ sorrow ? Base and unworthy of the
 “ heart of man, must be that love, which
 “ would purchase its gratification by the
 “ misery of its object ! the heart of Alme-
 “ na is Solyman’s, and so shall be her
 “ person : painful is the alternative ; but
 “ truth, and honour, and virtue, must
 “ prevail !”

Thus the generous King of Kanara
 overcame the efforts of importunate de-
 sire, by the force of virtue and reason ;
 and nobly scorned to avail himself of his
 power against an unhappy man, who had
 been

been long persecuted by misfortune, and distressed in his love.

The hour came at which he had ordered Solyman to attend him. The King received him with a condescending smile ; and without the least appearance of uneasiness or dissatisfaction in his countenance, desired him not to be apprehensive about Almena, for that he should shortly be put in possession of her.

Having thus spoken, he went immediately to her apartment, and gently taking her hand, " Most beautiful of the daughters of India," said he, " cease your sorrows ! I am not now come to offer you my love ; but to recommend to you another lover, who possibly may be happier in your favour than I could ever hope to be : he is now in the palace ; and if you will give me leave I will introduce him to you." " My heart," said Almena, " has been so
" much

“ much accustomed to new distresses,
 “ that it is not now shocked by their fre-
 “ quency: but if you have any pity for
 “ me, suffer me to bewail my miseries
 “ in solitude. Not to be interrupted in
 “ my sorrows, is all I ask; and that is
 “ not, surely, too much for you to grant.”

The King answered with a smile, “ If I
 “ am not to be happy in your love, I am
 “ determined that none but the person
 “ whom I am about to introduce to you,
 “ shall be so;” and hastily quitting the
 apartment, he returned with Solyman.

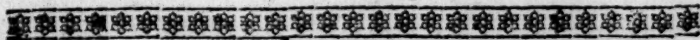
The lovers flew to each other's arms;
 “ My Solyman!” “ My Almena!” In a
 few moments being recollected, they
 threw themselves at the feet of the King;
 and Solyman, as well as the transports of
 his heart would give him leave, expressed
 his gratitude: “ Generous Prince,” said
 he, “ the thanks of Solyman are not
 “ worth your acceptance. But you
 “ will not be without a reward: yours
 “ shall

“ shall be the supreme pleasure of consci-
“ ous goodness ; yours shall be the care
“ of the Eternal Providence, and the
“ prayers and blessings of Solyman and
“ Almena !”

In the gratitude of his heart, Solyman offered the King his assistance in the prosecution of the war with the Sundians : but he humanely refused his offer, telling him, That love and war were no allies ; that his sufferings had already been too many and too great ; and that neither he should be exposed to danger, nor Almena to fear, on his account. He moreover told them, that if they were inclined to return by sea to the valley of Irwan, they should be attended by an armed vessel, to secure them from the assaults of an enemy. But this obliging offer they declined : Solyman was unwilling any more to risque that which was dearer than life ;
and

and Almena yet trembled at the thoughts of the Sundian pirate. They, therefore, notwithstanding the length and tediousness of the way, determined to go by land; and having taken leave of the King, who supplied them with every necessary, and lent them his own beasts and attendants, they set their faces towards Dehli.

CHAP.



C H A P. XXIV.

THEIR road was through a mountainous country, troublesome to the traveller ; little cultivated by the labours, or enlivened by the habitations of men. But what are the difficulties, which love and hope cannot surmount ! they despise the threats of danger, and the toils of labour ; and proceed, with resolution, through those perplexities, which by other eyes are beheld with despair. The travellers, thus animated, and looking forward to those delightful scenes of rest, those days of rural ease and happiness which they should enjoy in

H

the

the valley of Irwan, passed over the rugged mountains that opposed their way, without the least sense of weariness or fear.

After travelling many days, without any accident or delay, more than the necessary refreshment of nature required, they arrived at Dehli. At the sight of her native place, Almena shed a tear of joy, and the lovers embraced each other with more than common tenderness : so much is there in the power of external circumstances, to improve and exalt the pleasures of the mind. Almena always loved her Solyman with the most tender affection ; but she loved him at Dehli, more than in any other place : delight is inseparable from the idea of those scenes, where we have passed the happy hours of childhood ; and though, when in the maturity of life we revisit our native countries, we cannot enjoy that innocent thoughtless cheerfulness, of which we
still

still retain some notion ; yet we are delighted with the remembrance of it, and those scenes are always dear to us.

Almena forgot not to visit her village, and the people whom she called her own. The poor inhabitants, at the sight of their benefactress, wept with pleasure ; and she did not leave them, without giving them new exhortations of their duty, and new instances of her beneficence. Indeed, in all generous acts, she now doubled her assiduities, for she concluded, that, on account of her great and singular obligations to Providence, she ought, in gratitude, to have a superior portion of virtue

After a short stay at Dehli, Solyman and Almena renewed their journey, and set forward to Ispahan. This rout was longer ; but it was more easy, and less exposed to robbers, than that which led to the Persian gulph. When they arri-

ved at Ispahan, Solyman had the pleasure to find his friend the merchant, who was still detained by business in that city. He easily made his apology, for not accepting, as he had proposed, his kind offer of a passage into Europe, by introducing him to Almena. He related to him their various interesting adventures, to which he listened with the eager curiosity and concern of a friend, acknowledging all along the hand of providence in their preservation. For the amiable and accomplished Almena, he felt great esteem: her pathetic descriptions, and her just and natural observations were extremely entertaining and affecting. But he was most charmed with the character of the King of Kanara; and requested Almena to relate every particular of his behaviour.

“ When I first beheld him,” said she,
 “ I perceived in his countenance a noble
 “ affability and openness, which seemed
 “ to

“to speak a great and generous mind.
 “This gave me some pleasure; as I
 “might have hopes from his compassion,
 “should it be my fate to be selected by
 “him: such, you know, it was. When
 “I was conducted into an apartment of
 “the palace, he waited on me with the
 “most affable politeness; and seeing me
 “in tears, he gently took my hand, and
 “spoke to the following effect: Be not
 “distressed, fair Almena! Though you
 “are in the power of a prince, you are
 “not in the hands of a tyrant. If time,
 “and the assiduities of tenderness, may
 “prevail on you to return my love, I shall
 “be happy; if not, you shall never be
 “made miserable by cruelty or by vio-
 “lence. Consistent with this declaration,
 “was his whole conduct to me, during
 “the time I was in his possession. How
 “I regained my liberty, you have already
 “heard.”

“ To the character which you have already received of the Kanarian Prince,” said Solyman to the Merchant, “ I will add a poetical portrait, which possibly may not be disagreeable to you : my gratitude for his favours, and my admiration of his virtues, induced me to attempt it.”

THE

THE
AMIABLE KING.

The free born muse her tribute rarely
brings,
Or burns her incense to the power of
kings:
But Virtue ever shall her voice command,
Alike a spade or sceptre in her hand.
Is there a prince untainted with a throne,
That makes the interest of mankind his
own;
Whose bounty knows no bounds of time
or place;
Who nobly feels for all the human race:
A prince, that acts in reason's steady
sphere,
No slave to passion, and no dupe to fear;
A breast, where mild humanity resides,
Where virtue dictates, and where wisdom
guides;
A mind, that stretch'd beyond the years
of youth,
Explores the secret springs of taste and
truth:

These, these are virtues, which the muse
shall sing;

And plant, for these, her laurels round a
king!

Kanara's Monarch! this shall be thy
praise:

For this, be crown'd with never-fading
bays!

"Your verses," said the Merchant,
"are very agreeable to me: for they are
"justly applicable to a prince, whom
"every merchant in Great-Britain has
"the greatest reason to respect; and who
"is beloved by his subjects, as much as
"a father by his children: He too is
"young, as is the king of Kanara. But
"I have lately had the pleasure to hear
"of his marriage: and at the same time
"I received, from a literary correspon-
"dent, an ode on the occasion; which
"as you have a poetical taste, I shall
"make no scruple to offer you."

HYMENEAL.

HYMENEAL.

I.

Awake, thou everlasting Lyre!
That once the mighty Pindar strung,
When, rapt with more than mortal fire,
The gods of Greece he sung:

Awake!

Arrest the rapid time of foot again,
With liquid notes of joy, and pleasure's
melting strain.

II.

Crown'd with each beauteous flow'r that
blows
On Acidalia's tuneful side;
With all Aonia's rosy pride,
Where numerous Aganippe flows;

H 5

From

154 SOLYMAN AND ALMENA.

From Thespian groves and fountains
wild,

Come, thou yellow vested boy,

Redolent of youth and joy,

*Fair Urania's favour'd child !

George to thee devotes the day :

Lo Hymen ! haste way !

III.

Daughter of the genial main !

Queen of youth and rosy smiles,

Queen of dimple dwelling wiles ;

Come, with all thy Paphian train ;

O give the Fair that blooms for Britain's
throne,

Thy melting charms of love, thy soul-
enchanting zone !

IV.

Daughter of the genial main !

Bring that heart-dissolving power,

Which once in Ida's sacred bower

The soul of Jove oppos'd in vain :

The fire of gods thy conquering charms
confest ;

And

* See Catullus

And vanquish'd sunk, sunk down on
Juno's fostering breast.

V.

She comes! The conscious sea subsides;
Old Ocean curbs his thund'ring tides:
Smooth the silken surface lies,
Where Venus' flow'ry chariot flies:
Paphian airs in ambush sleep
On the still bosom of the deep:
Paphian maids around her move,
Keen-ey'd Hope, and Joy, and Love:
Their rosy breasts a thousand Cupids
lave,
And dip their wanton wings, and beat
the buxom wave.

VI.

But mark, of more than vulgar mien,
With regal grace and radiant eye,
A form in youthful majesty!
Britain, hail thy favour'd queen!
For her, the conscious sea subsides;
Old Ocean curbs his thund'ring tides:
O'er

O'er the glassy bosom'd main,
 Venus leads her laughing train :
 The Paphian maids move graceful by
 her side ;
 And, o'er the buxom waves, the rosy
 Cupids ride.

VII.

Fly, ye fairy-footed hours !
 Fly, with aromatic flow'rs !
 Such as bath'd in orient dew,
 Beauty's living glow diffuse ;
 Such as in Idalia's grove
 Breathe the sweets, the soul of love !

VIII.

Come, genial god of chaste delight,
 With wreaths of festive roses crown'd,
 And torch that burns with radiance
 bright,
 And liberal robe that sweeps the ground !
 Bring thy days of golden joy,
 Pleasures pure that never cloy !

Bring

Bring to Britain's happy pair,
 All that's kind, and good, and fair!
 George to thee devotes the day:
 Io Hymen! haste away!

IX.

Daughters of Jove! ye virgins sage,
 That wait on Camus' hoary age;
 That oft his windling vales along
 Have smooth'd your silver-woven song;
 O wake once more those lays sublime,
 That live beyond the wrecks of time!
 To crown your Albion's boasted pair,
 The never-fading wreath prepare;
 While her rocks echo to this grateful
 strain,
 "The friends of Freedom and of Britain
 reign!"

"The ode you have obliged me with,"
 said Solyman, "though I do not very
 well understand it, gives me some
 "idea

" idea of the enthusiasm and harmony
 " of the English poetry. But I am less
 " pleased with the productions of art in
 " your country, than with the affection-
 " ate duty which the people shew to
 " their king: for that is the basis of
 " civil happiness; and indeed every hu-
 " mane prince, who has the interest of
 " his subjects at heart, will always reign
 " in their affections.

" But now, my friend, if you are not
 " too much taken up with your concerns
 " at Ispahan, will you be prevailed on to
 " visit the vally of Irwan? As you are a
 " lover of nature, and of the muses, you
 " will there meet with much to enter-
 " tain you; at least, you will find a re-
 " treat from the fatigues of business, and
 " the plagues of popularity. Almena
 " too joins in this request, and will be
 " glad of so entertaining a friend in the
 " first stages of her retirement."

The

The Merchant accepted the invitation, and they left Ispahan the following day. He was desirous to hear from Almena the story of her captivity, and took the first opportunity to request it: "I have heard," said he, "from Solyman the greatest part of your adventures; but I have not been informed how you passed that unhappy period of time, from your being taken by the Sundians, to your departure from the castle of Sevasir."

"You call back memory, Sir," said Almena, "to the days of misery: but as I can, at this distance, look upon them without terror, I will endeavour to describe them to you."

"When I was first taken by the Sundians, my distraction was so great, that I retain no idea of what passed, till the captain of the vessel conveyed me on shore to the castle of Sevasir,
"and

“ and presented me, terrified and almost
 “ frantic as I was, to the detested Go-
 “ vernor ; who, as I have been since in-
 “ formed, received such kind of acknow-
 “ ledgements from the seamen, for pro-
 “ tecting them in their illegal and pirati-
 “ cal captures.

“ The wretch, as well as I remember,
 “ seemed totally insensible to my misery ;
 “ and, with a smile upon his countenance
 “ ordered his domesticks to convey me
 “ to my apartments. These, indeed,
 “ wanted neither elegance nor conve-
 “ nience ; but I despised the one, and
 “ neglected the other. The first even-
 “ ing I passed in the most painful anguish
 “ for the loss of Solyman, and the most
 “ dreadful apprehensions of injurious
 “ treatment from the Governor. The
 “ women that were about me, seemed
 “ the wretched remains of ruined inno-
 “ cence, who had first been victims to
 “ the

“ the desires of the tyrant, and after-
 “ wards made his slaves. Dreadful was
 “ the scene I had before me! Some of
 “ these unhappy creatures seemed to
 “ pity me, and to be concerned for my
 “ approaching misfortunes; while others
 “ who with their virtue had lost their
 “ humanity, looked upon me with a
 “ careless scorn; pleased, I fear, with
 “ the thought, that they should see one
 “ woman more, as miserable and 'as des-
 “ picable as themselves.”

“ Early the next morning the Gover-
 “ nor came into my apartment; and
 “ casting his eyes upon the bed on which
 “ I had not reposed, It seems, madam,
 “ said he with a scornful smile, that you
 “ approve not of your lodgings; but a
 “ little time, it is to be presumed, will
 “ reconcile you to us. These morning
 “ visits he constantly paid me; and as he
 “ always found me in sullen sorrow, he
 “ behaved much in the same manner.

“ At

" At last, he changed his address; seem-
 " ed to pity me; asked me for the story
 " of my misfortunes; and, I believe,
 " wept when he heard it: but as I was
 " aware of the hypocrite, I was equally
 " regardless of his pity, as I had been of
 " his scorn: and still continued to look
 " upon him, with the same forbidding
 " aversion and disdain.

" Thus passed my days in this con-
 " finement: but they would have been
 " more intolerable, had I not found a
 " harp in my apartments, which proba-
 " bly had been left there by some un-
 " happy lady, who had possessed them
 " before me. With this instrument I
 " amused myself for many a melancholy
 " hour, which must otherwise have pas-
 " sed away in the most miserable lan-
 " guor. I also composed a song suitable
 " to my state of mind and my misfor-
 " tunes; which I adapted to my harp,
 " and which, I think, was as follows:

S O N G.

S O N G .

I.

'Tis o'er—the pleasing prospect's o'er!
My weary heart can hope no more—
Then welcome, wan despair!
Approach with all thy dreadful train;
Wild anguish, discontent, and pain,
And thorny-pillow'd care!

II.

Gay hope, and ease, and joy, and rest,
All, all that charms the peaceful breast,
For ever I resign.
Let pale anxiety instead,
That has not where to lay her head,
And lasting woe be mine.

III.

It comes! I feel the painful woe—
My eyes, for Solyman will flow
In silent grief again;

Who

Who wand'ring o'er some mountain
 drear,
 Now haply sheds the pensive tear,
 And calls on me in vain.

IV.

Perhaps, along the lonely shores,
 He now the sea's blue breast explores,
 To watch the distant sail :
 Perhaps on Sundah's hills forlorn,
 He faints, with aching toil o'erborne ;
 And life's last spirits fail.

V.

Ah! no—the cruel thought forbear!
 Avaunt, thou fiend of fell Despair,
 That only death can't give!
 While Heaven eternal rules above,
 Almena yet may find her love,
 And Solyman may live!

“Such

“ Such, Sir, was my life in the castle
“ of Sevasir; which passed like the wa-
“ ters of Zenderoud, that in some places
“ are tortured by rocks and precipices,
“ and in others languishing in dull
“ stagnation.”

CHAP.



C H A P. XXV.

THE travellers had now proceeded on their way to the valley of Irwan, as far as the village of Abdat; where Solyman proposed, that they should visit the lovers who owed their preservation to him. Of this he was the more desirous, as he had never seen them, since he had first recommended them to the protection of his father: but the pleasure he proposed to himself from this visit, arose not from a desire of being flattered with their acknowledgements, but of beholding and enjoying their happiness.

The

The lovers received their benefactor, with the greatest ardour of gratitude; but at the same time with that delicacy, which proved it to be sincere: they were not loud in their acknowledgements, nor officious in their compliments; but yet their attention to their guests, shewed how much they were delighted with this opportunity of expressing their respect for Solyman. The travellers, in the mean time, were not less pleased, to behold the peculiar happiness of the lovers, who seemed to have but one heart and one inclination. Solyman and Almena beheld, in them, a picture of themselves; and felt more sensibly their own felicity, when they had before them so pleasing an image of it.

The Merchant too was delighted with this scene of conjugal happiness. "Such," said he to Solyman, "are the genuine fruits of those alliances, which are made by
"love.

“ love. When I beheld them, I blush
 “ for myself and for my countrymen ;
 “ for love, genuine love, as if it were no
 “ longer a passion essential to human
 “ nature, is looked upon as an Utopian
 “ idea, existing only in the imagination
 “ of poets and enthusiasts : hence, every
 “ tendency to it is ridiculed as romantic,
 “ and modern marriages are only con-
 “ tracts of convenience. A British lady
 “ is exposed to sale ; and if she has a
 “ good person, as well as an ample for-
 “ tune, she hopes by that addition only
 “ to fetch a higher price, and make a
 “ better market. This, however, it
 “ must be owned, is not the foible of
 “ the women only : the men are equally,
 “ if not more mercenary ; and have, if
 “ possible, more selfish views in their
 “ marriages : so that, in this case cun-
 “ ning is only opposed to cunning. All
 “ this proceeds from that mischievous
 “ opinion, which measures happiness by
 “ the

“ the possessions of fortune. Hence that
 “ mutual coldness and indifference, which
 “ both experience before the marriage
 “ torch is extinct: from new acquisitions
 “ of wealth, each expects new degrees
 “ of felicity, and both are disappointed:
 “ when they find themselves mistaken,
 “ destitute of that affectionate tenderness
 “ which endears the married state, they look
 “ upon each other as the cause of discontent,
 “ and disgust, and aversion succeed. Thus,
 “ they sacrifice to vanity, and reap the fruits
 “ of it!”

From the village of Abdat, Solyman and Almena, with their friend the Merchant, proceeded to the valley of Irwan, where they found the aged Ardavan still living, and enjoying all the faculties of nature. The benevolent Sage rejoiced to receive his son, not only safe from the dangers of travel, but happy in the en-

I

joyment

joyment of his love; and with a heart full of tenderneſs, he thus conferred on both, his paternal benediction :

“ Children of the heart, and comfort
 “ of the years of Ardavan! Solyman
 “ ſhall be as the Sun, when he cometh
 “ from the chambers of the eaſt, when
 “ he ſpreadeth his glories over the waves
 “ of Ganges : my ſon ſhall be as the
 “ Euphrates, the river of plenty, whoſe
 “ waves are the delight of a thouſand
 “ meadows ; he ſhall be like the roe
 “ upon the mountains, that danceth in
 “ the vigour of his heart, and faith to
 “ the fence of the huſbandman, What
 “ art thou ? His head ſhall be crowned
 “ with the rays of Mithra, becauſe his
 “ heart melted with compaſſion, and be-
 “ cauſe his hand was ſtretched forth to
 “ relieve the children of affliction !”

“ Almena is fairer than the women of
 “ the eaſt : ſhe is more virtuous than
 “ the

“ the daughters of men : love dwelleth
 “ in her heart, and benevolence sitteth
 “ in her eye. She shall be like the tree,
 “ that droppeth balm upon the flowers
 “ of Irwan ; as the star of the evening
 “ reflected from the river. Her coun-
 “ tenance shall be pleasant as the calm
 “ surface of the ocean, when the gilded
 “ clouds of evening blaze upon its bo-
 “ som : she shall be as the moon, when
 “ she lendeth her rays to the traveller,
 “ and sheddeth a mild light over the
 “ groves and valleys. Her voice shall
 “ be as the voice of the turtle, calling
 “ to her mate in the thickets of the forest.
 “ Like the stars that surround the cha-
 “ riot of the moon, shall be the children
 “ of Almena ; beautiful as the plants of
 “ the cedar, and sprightly as the fawns
 “ upon the mountains !”

Thus blessed by the voice of Ardavan,
 and happy in themselves, the virtuous

Solyman and Almena live in the valley of Irwan! Each day is endeared by the delights of tender love; and ever grateful for the divine favours, they close each day with prayer and praise.

H Y M N

H Y M N

TO THE ETERNAL PROVIDENCE.

I.

Life of the world, Immortal Mind!
 Father of all the human kind,
 Whose boundless eye that knows no rest,
 Intent on nature's ample breast,
 Explores the space of earth and skies,
 And sees eternal incense rise!
 To Thee, my humble voice I raise:
 Forgive while I presume to praise.

II.

Though Thou this transient being gave,
 That shortly sinks into the grave;
 Yet 'twas thy Goodness, still to give
 A being that can think and live;
 In all thy works thy wisdom see,
 And stretch its tow'ring mind to Thee!
 To

To Thee, my humble voice I raise:
 Forgive, while I presume to praise.

III.

And still this poor contracted span,
 This life that bears the name of man;
 From Thee derives its vital ray,
 Eternal source of life and day!
 Thy bounty still the sunshine pours,
 That gilds its morn and evening hours.
 To Thee, my humble voice I raise:
 Forgive, while I presume to praise.

IV.

Through Error's maze, thro' Folly's
 night,
 The lamp of Reason lends me light.
 When stern affliction waves her rod,
 My heart confides in Thee, my God!
 When nature shrinks, oppress'd with
 woes;
 Ev'n then she finds in Thee repose.
 To Thee, my humble voice I raise:
 Forgive, while I presume to praise.

V.

V.

Affliction flies, and Hope returns ;
 Her lamp with brighter splendor burns.
 Gay Love with all its smiling train,
 And Peace and Joy are here again.
 These, these, I know, 'twas thine to
 give :

I trusted ; and, behold ! I live.
 To Thee, my humble voice I raise :
 Forgive, while I presume to praise.

VI.

O may I still thy favour prove !
 Sill grant me gratitude and love.
 Let truth and virtue guide my heart ;
 Nor Peace, nor Hope nor Joy depart.
 But yet, whate'er my life may be,
 My heart shall still repose on Thee !
 To Thee, my humble voice I raise :
 Forgive, while I presume to praise !

F I N I S.



